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NJ Legislature Passes Minimum Wage Bill

BRITTANY HARDAKER
STAFF WRITER

The New Jersey Legislature handed Governor Chris Christie a bill last week that plans to raise the state's minimum wage to \$8.50 per hour – a \$1.25 increase from the current minimum. The bill is a sign of hope for some New Jersey residents, but many are questioning the wisdom of raising the minimum wage, especially when the state's economy and local businesses are still struggling to recover from Sandy.

New Jersey is one of 23 states whose minimum wage is \$7.25, the same as the federal minimum. However, an increase to \$8.50 would put the state third highest, behind Washington and Oregon.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (USBLS), New Jersey has approximately 41,000 minimum wage earners. Another 58,000 make even less than that because they have jobs where they rely heavily on tips in order to make ends meet.

While there are many advocates of the bill that believe an increase in minimum wage will benefit the people of New Jersey, opponents counter that with New Jersey's economy still recovering, the timing is far from appropriate.

The bill, A2612, comes more than six months after the Assembly first passed the measure, and 11 months after Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver announced

that she would make the wage increase a legislative priority at the Assembly reorganization ceremony in January.

In a press release from the Assembly Democrats dated December 5, Oliver, a supporter of the proposed legislation, explained that as the cost of living in New Jersey continues to rise, it is important for the state legislature to take action to elevate the minimum wage in order to accommodate the cost.

Minimum wage earners bring home approximately \$15,000 a year, which translates to just under \$300 a week barely enough to support basic needs, Oliver explained in the release.

"You cannot afford housing, food, transportation, medicine; the things you need just to have a modicum of a quality of life on minimum wage. And we have not elevated the minimum wage in New Jersey since 2005," Oliver said.

Gaining support throughout the state, the bill was voted on in the Assembly last week and passed 44 to 31 with one abstention. The State Senate also approved the bill in May, sending it back to the Assembly for a final vote to change the start date to March 1.

However, the bill is not entirely supported. While on one hand the bill aims to increase the minimum wage, it also contains a requirement to automatically

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Wilson Hall's History Displayed in Pollak Gallery



PHOTO COURTESY of Casey Wolfe

The Historic Wilson Hall Exhibit, which shows Wilson Hall throughout the years, will be open until December 21.

SAGE FONSECA
STAFF WRITER

From November 1 through December 21, Pollak Gallery is featuring a Historic Wilson Hall Exhibit sponsored by the University's Center for the Arts.

The exhibit is free and open to the public for those who wish to view photographs and artifacts from the national historic landmark, including Woodrow Wilson's desk from the golden age of American Palaces.

The exhibit originally opened for two weeks in the summer of 2011 and expanded upon those original artifacts for the 2012 exhibition.

"We have received such an eager response from the community to share information with us and we have enjoyed learning more about the building," said Kelly Barratt, Marketing Coordinator for the Arts.

The building has always been a draw for historians and musical lovers (the 1982 film *Annie* was filmed there), but this year the exhibit features new artifacts centering around Shadow Lawn, and Woodrow Wilson's stay there during 1916.

This exhibit displays historical photographs of the greenhouses, orchards, fields and other exterior buildings, from the Monmouth County Historical Association, photos from the

Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library, and photographs selected from the University's archive, maintained by Jim Reme.

Additional photographs and artifacts are on loan from various sources, including blueprints and original decor, displayed behind glass cases and other blockades for the enjoyment of everyone who comes to view them.

"This whole exhibit really makes me feel closer to the history of Wilson Hall," said Ronnie Tutella, a University alumni, "seeing the past instead of

Wilson Hall continued on pg. 2

Same Sex Marriage Heading to Supreme Court

CHRISTOPHER ORLANDO
POLITICS EDITOR

The United States Supreme Court will take up same sex marriage on the docket for the next term. There will be two cases; one is based on California's constitutional ban on same sex marriage through Proposition 8. Despite this, the public approved it via referendum. The other case will be based on a New York law that denies same sex couples federal benefits. This case will take center stage as the public attitude from same sex marriage has shifted.

The California case will decide whether California judges violated the federal Constitution when they voted to deny rights of same sex couples. A three judge panel for the Court of Appeals disagreed with the public, who believe same sex marriage should be allowed.

The Supreme Court will be dealing with a multitude of questions, the key one being: whether the Constitution requires states to allow same sex marriages. This case comes as nine states have legalized same sex marriage; Maryland, Washington and Maine passed it just this past

election. Other states, including New Jersey, recognize domestic partnerships and civil unions, not same sex marriage.

The federal case based out of New York challenges the Defense of Marriage Act of 1996 passed by President Bill Clinton. Section three of the Defense of Marriage Act defines marriage as a union between one man and one woman for purposes of federal law. This comes forward after same sex couples attempt

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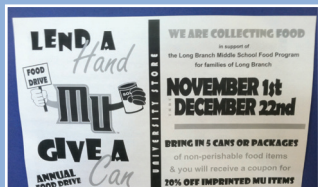
IMAGE TAKEN from northhavennews.com

New Jersey's minimum wage could be raised from \$7.25 to \$8.50 pending Governor Christie's approval.

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Club & Greek

Student Activities Board hosts "Keep Calm..." in the Student Center last Wednesday.

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COREiculum DVDs Coming Soon

BRAD BROWN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

After a year and a half of continued work and dedication to further develop a program for college students’ fitness, COREiculum is set to hit the shelves of the University’s Book Store in January 2013. COREiculum is a program that includes a variety of kickboxing, yoga, cardio dance, a boot camp and more with two additional courses that they label as “extra credit,” keeping the school theme. The reason for keeping the school theme revolves around the idea of making this a program for college students, which has not been done before.

Many typical 90 day programs like Insanity or P90X are built for people with a steady job, who have regular working hours and can plan when to eat meals, as well as work out on a daily basis. For college students it becomes much more difficult due to the different hours of classes each day, eating late night snacks or even meals, as well as the irregular sleeping patterns. Andy Stern, the creator of COREiculum, wanted to do all that he could to create a program that would work for college students. He explained, “I carefully devel-

oped the program that combined aerobic and cardiovascular training with body weight resistance. In spring of 2011, the pilot program launched at Monmouth University and since then over 200 students have participated in a COREiculum COREse.” When the program first came out in the spring of 2011, Andy Stern and Alissa Catalano (CO-

stores and hold COREientation at each school. We will team up and fundraise for a participating department, club or organization where students will enroll in a one day COREse at their school,” said Stern. Additional plans included having those students come and work out with COREiculum and giving everyone the option to purchase

tas, a senior, who said, “I heard about COREiculum through social media and some of my friends have taken the classes. I’m always at the gym, so I think trying one of their classes will be a good break from my usual routine.” Even Stern’s co-worker Alissa Catalano participated in the program, not only to get in shape, but to really help promote the name it, I designed it. Right now, my position with COREiculum is pretty much Andy’s right-hand woman. Since the entrepreneurship class ended, Andy and I have continued to finish the product.” To keep the product’s name out there, these two are not just sitting around waiting for it to take off. Every Wednesday at 7 pm a COREiculum work out group can be found in Cedar Hall basement and all are welcome to join. This is an opportunity to try the program without paying for it first, and can be located on the residential side of campus. Stern knew the pains of finding a program that was right. “I knew the feeling was mutual amongst other college students. They wanted a program that they could do in their bedroom. They wanted a program that they could afford,” he said.

Currently the *1st Semester* DVD is online for \$30. To find out more information about the product you can visit their website www.coreiculum.com, follow them on Twitter @COREiculum, or find their Facebook page. Stern will give updates for future events on the social media sites, and remember COREiculum is, in their words, “Where the freshman 15 is an elective.”

“I knew the feeling was mutual amongst other college students. They wanted a program that they could do in their bedroom. They wanted a program that they could afford.”

ANDY STERN
Creator of COREiculum

REiculum’s head graphic designer), were a part of an entrepreneurship class. With the help of Professor John Buzza, COREiculum’s launch of their first set of DVDs, called the *1st Semester*, will be ready for the book store, but Stern has bigger plans for the workout that he created. “The plan is for COREiculum to go on the road to each college and university. We look to sell the *1st Semester* in university book-

the *1st Semester* DVD. Stern proudly mentioned that the proceeds will benefit the participating parties including such organizations as fraternities, sororities, student government, or an athletic team. COREiculum’s program has spread around campus through word of mouth and online as of late. Students at the University are starting to become aware of the program, like Samantha Tar-

program. “I attended every class twice a day to support Andy and get my body into shape. I am a proud graduate of COREiculum,” said Catalano. Catalano is the graphic designer for the COREiculum team, but has also become Andy’s right hand woman to help push the program along even further. “I designed everything from the logo, to the actual package of the DVD case to the actual DVDs,” she said. “You

Wilson Hall Exhibit Sheds New Light on Old History

Wilson Hall continued from pg. 1

just hearing about it makes me realize how special it was to attend school here.” These artifacts each come from people who have their own connections to the building and can offer new insights into what the building was like in historic times from 1903 to 1937. Barratt explains how they were contacted by Janey Bitsi, whose grandfather, John Eisele, was a gardener on the grounds. Bitsi shared several photos of her grandfather in the greenhouses and in front of the house with some of the maids. Some of the photos donated by the Monmouth County Historical Association were even given to the Association by the former caretaker’s grandson who found them in his basement. “These are fantastic additions to our growing collection of history about the building,” said Barratt. This year, the exhibit also features descriptions of the history of the building shown through the photographs. This allows patrons to discover new information about the building they may have never known otherwise. “Most of the people viewing the exhibition have been very interested in learning more about the building. Many people don’t realize that there was original structure built in 1903 that burned to the ground in 1927 and then was rebuilt as we see the building today,” said Barratt.

With new information and artifacts being sent in by people around the area, even the staff putting on the exhibit learns something new about the history of Wilson Hall. “One of the most interesting new facts we learned when remounting the exhibition was the origin of several of the color photographs of the interiors of the house right before its contents were auctioned off. An individual named Ed Kembel [a former local gardener and photographer] set up his equipment while the auction house was cataloging the contents of the house and took Kodachrome photos of all the rooms in the house in their original state,” said Barratt. These photos have become the best representations the department has of the interiors with furniture and décor before everything was sold. “After leaving here [the exhibit] I will probably look at Wilson Hall and Shadow Lawn in a whole new way, being able to easily walk into a building where a president once lived and now to see what he must have seen every day is an amazing experience,” said Lauren Randall, senior. This exhibit has plenty of room for growth and Barratt hopes to be able to remount the exhibit in the future with more information, artifacts and photographs of this historic site. Anyone who wished to submit memories or artifacts of Shadow Lawn for future exhibitions can do so through the University Center for the Arts page on the University website.



The Historic Wilson Hall Exhibit features descriptions along with the pictures explaining the history shown in the photographs. PHOTO COURTESY of Casey Wolfe

CRIME BLOTTER

BURGLARY / THEFT

12/5/12 - BETWEEN 9:46 PM & 9:47 PM

MAC

STUDENT MISCONDUCT

12/6/12 - 3:20 AM

PACKING LOT 8

THEFT

12/9/12 - BETWEEN 2:00 AM & 9:45 AM

MAPLEWOOD HALL

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THURS.

FRI.

SAT.

SUN.

MON.

TUES.

12/5 - 12/11

The Honors School Takes on First Year Long Mission

Honors Students Support The Kourtney Rose Foundation

NICOLE MASSABROOK
CO-ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Honors students are known for being dedicated to their homework, but now they would like to be known for their dedication to philanthropy as well. The Honors School has decided to support a charity this year, The Kourtney Rose Foundation. This is the first time that the Honors School has decided to take on a year long service project.

The Kortney Rose Foundation, according to the mission statement on TheKortneyRoseFoundation.org, was created to raise awareness about pediatric brain tumors as well as raise funds to further research for treatments and a cure. The foundation was founded by Kristen Gillette, a secretary in the political science department, after her daughter Kortney died from a brain tumor at age nine.

Ryan Murphy, a junior and head of the mentoring program, wanted to start a philanthropy project for the mentoring program. The Honors Mentoring Program assigns each honors freshman an upper-class mentor to help guide them through their first year at the University.

Murphy felt that this would be an effective way to get first year students involved on campus. “The mentoring program, still young, is trying to expand and present the first year students with new opportunities to reach their full potential

here at Monmouth. As the program head, I believe community service is a great way to give back to others, while also learning about yourself and those around you.”

Rachel Brady, a sophomore and honors mentor, said she was excited about the Honors School’s philanthropy project. “I love that the Honors School supports a charity. It’s a perfect way for the Honors School to bond while also helping a great cause,” Brady said.

Fundraising is not their only goal.

“... [Honors students] have worked really hard, and I think it’s very important that [they] demonstrate that [their] learning isn’t just about being in the classroom and acquiring knowledge, but it’s about learning by promoting [some] sort of social responsibility.”

DR. KEVIN DOOLEY
Dean of the Honors School

While money is certainly one aspect, the group would also like to raise more awareness. Murphy said, “We feel that it should be about both [raising money and awareness]. The students have broken up into two different committees, one for each. Of course raising money is vital, but bringing the organization to the attention of the community is an important way to raise awareness on pediatric brain cancer.”

Gillette, President of The Kortney Rose Foundation, is happy to have the Honors School’s support.

“The Kortney Rose Foundation is grateful and excited that the Monmouth University Honors School has chosen us for their philanthropy this year. With their help,

we are hoping to accomplish both parts of our mission which is to raise funding for desperately needed research into better treatments and cures for pediatric brain cancer and also to bring awareness to this ‘or-

really hard, and I think it’s very important that [they] demonstrate that [their] learning isn’t just about being in the classroom and acquiring knowledge, but it’s about learning by promoting [some] sort of social responsibility.”

As a professor in the political science department, Dooley was already familiar with Gillette’s foundation. Dooley mentioned that it is important for anyone to know who they are working with when it comes to community service. Because he is

the foundation’s website.

Murphy said he is working closely with Gillette to make sure they follow The Kortney Rose Foundation’s mission. “Kristen and I meet from time to time, and we have plans for her to come present to the students about her work and her organization. Kristen has great ideas for future projects and fundraisers so her participation is integral and so appreciated!” Murphy said.

While Superstorm Sandy temporarily set some planned events back, Murphy plans to kick off the New Year by pushing the philanthropy project into overdrive. Murphy could not confirm any concrete ideas, but he hinted at future plans. Bake sales are definitely likely, and a special Valentine’s Day fundraiser is a possibility.

Brady showed enthusiasm for the project. She said, “I hope that the Honors School will be able to raise as much awareness and money for this cause as possible and that people will rally around a philanthropy that we care about so much.”

Murphy also stressed that while this project is from the Honors School, participants do not have to be in the Honors School. Murphy said, “Our fundraiser ideas will not be able to function without the help of the entire Monmouth Community.”

Meetings for The Kortney Rose Foundation are held every Friday at 4 pm in Beechwood Hall.

The University Holds Annual Food Drive

AMY GEIS
STAFF WRITER

The University Store is holding their annual holiday food drive to help donate food to Long Branch families until December 22.

Kathy Booth, Assistant Manager at the University Store, teamed up with Long Branch Middle School in 1999 to help with their efforts in collecting food and has been working with them ever since.

Booth used to walk past the food bins and see that there was very little in them. After that, the store decided to give coupons out as an incentive and a thank you for donating in hopes for receiving more food. When a student brings in five items of non-perishable foods, they will receive a coupon for 20% off Imprinted University Clothing and Giftware. The coupon is redeemable until December 22 at the University Store.

Booth then met up with Marilyn Ward, Coordinator of Service Learning and Community Programs, to figure out who they could give the food to. They decided on Long Branch Middle School. The students there have a food bank and they collect and feed families all year long.

The University Store does two food drives each year: one for Thanksgiving and one for Christmas. “We do it for the whole month of November and December and try to get food for both holidays,” said Booth.

When donating, foods need to be in original packaging and unopened. Items can be dropped off at the front desk in the University Store where they will be exchanged for a coupon. Boxed stuffing, canned vegetables, cranberry sauce and other non-perishable foods will be accepted.

Valerie Siano, a junior psychology major, has not participated in the food drive, but wishes to. She believes the coupon is a great idea, but

it should not be the sole purpose of why students donate. “The coupon is an advantage but giving food is an advantage in itself,” she said.

The amount of food collected always varies year to year. This year has not been the best due to many lost days. So far the University Store has collected 7 boxes full of food. “Because of the storm, we didn’t really get a start off until Thanksgiving,” said Booth. But with the time that the food drive has been running, they’ve been doing well. Booth added, “After a day and a half we’ll have the orange bin up front full.”

Booth shares that the amount of food they collect also fluctuates with the amount of other people collecting food on campus. “There are usually about 25 boxes of food for November and about 20 to 25 for December,” Booth said.

To get the word out about the food drive, the University Store uses signage and contacts all the media outlets at the university, such as the newspaper and radio and television stations.

Booth also emails everyone on campus the information. “I usually try to do the email twice. Once in the week before November starts and then the first week of December just to keep it in everybody’s minds,” Booth said.

The Middle School gives the food directly to the Long Branch families; they do not work with another group. All of the work is done by the students and faculty so there is no middle man. According to Booth, the Long Branch Middle School had over 300 families that they donated food to last year.

“The Long Branch Public Schools have a long history of helping their neediest families during the holidays,” said Ward. “Food donations are collected at the Middle School and, with the help of their teachers, the children sort the donations and get them ready for delivery to individual families.”

phan disease’ and the little known fact that brain tumors are the #1 solid tumor cause of death in children 20 and under,” said Gillette.

Dean of the Honors School, Dr. Kevin Dooley, said he was thrilled when Murphy proposed this idea. “Honors students have responsibility that is greater than what [they] learn in just the classroom. [Honors students] have given a lot intellectually. [Honors students] have worked

familiar with Gillette and her foundation, he says he knows exactly where the money and time for The Kortney Rose Foundation are going.

Money raised for The Kortney Rose Foundation is donated to the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), where Kortney was treated. Last year, the foundation raised \$140,000 for CHOP. The foundation has raised over \$500,000 for CHOP over the past five years, according to

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If you have had a Federal Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized Stafford Loan and will be graduating in **January 2013** and have not yet completed your Exit Loan Counseling please go to: <https://www.studentloans.gov>.

If your graduation date is incorrect, please contact the Financial Aid Office at (732) 571-3463 or via e-mail at dorsey@monmouth.edu, or you may visit us in person in Wilson Hall, Room 108.

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Inmates Hope Students Can Learn from Their Mistakes

JOHN HAREN
STAFF WRITER

Before their presentation, four inmates, dressed in loose-fitting brown prison attire, stared out to an audience of over 400 people on Tuesday, December 4 in Pollak theatre. Next to them hung a sign that read, “The worst thing that you can do is establish a criminal record.” For them, it was too late; as a result of a series of events topped with poor decision making, their records are forever blemished.

Cumulatively, their prison sentences combine to over 25 years behind bars. But in an effort to teach others about the dangers of using drugs and the results of making bad decisions, they participated in Project PRIDE (Promoting Responsibility in Drug Education) and for an hour they told their stories.

Michael Ridder, Coordinator of Project PRIDE, said that the four inmates were once just like the students who sat in the audience. “These four people, before they headed down the wrong path, were goal-orientated, talented young adults. They never imagined that one day they would be prisoners in a New Jersey Correctional facility,” said Ridder. “Unfortunately, they made bad decisions that led them to where they are today.”

The first of the prisoners to speak was a 27-year-old man named Evan. After losing his job because of a business merger, Evan said that it didn’t take long for his finances to dwindle down and feeding his family became nearly impossible. “I couldn’t pay any of my bills and within two months I was handed an eviction notice by my landlord,” said Evan. Making “the worst decision of my life,” Evan robbed three stores with a 9mm gun and was later arrested on armed robbery charges and first degree possession of a gun. He was sentenced to eight years in prison. “The one thing that weighs on my heart and my mind all of the time is that I acted on impulse,” said Evan.

“I want people to realize that it is imperative that every decision they make should be made so it benefits them, their family and their dreams,” said Evan. “Things would have been different if I understood this five years ago.”

The next inmate to speak was a woman named Jessica. Experimenting with drugs at a young age, Jessica said that she gradually moved to harder drugs as she got older. “I began to use heroin and started stealing from my parents, my grandparents and even my little brother,” Jessica said. “I did anything to get the money to obtain the drugs.” On a night when Jessica and her friends couldn’t

from my mistakes and see how my decisions got me to where I am today.”

After receiving an applause from the audience, Jessica passed the microphone to Lauren. Describing herself as a hardworking and ambitious person, Lauren said that she had wanted to become an FBI agent when her service with the Marines ended. However, her dream was shattered

can negatively effect them for the rest of their lives. In his first example, he explained how a driver is responsible for an accident even if they are not under the influence of drugs or alcohol. “There is a woman in our prison system who was sentenced to three years for hitting a pedestrian while she was texting and driving,” Ridder said. “Her decision to text while driving cost the pedestrian his

Golden Gloves boxer who was on his way to stardom. Because of his bad habits though, he got involved with the wrong crowd and started making careless decisions. It eventually caught up to him. “I was arrested for armed robbery and sentenced to ten years in prison,” said Vincent. From the descriptions of his experiences in jail, he doesn’t like it too much. “I have a job in prison that pays me 30 cents per day. I would trade to be back in my shoes as a teenager any day,” said Vincent. “It is excruciating to live under the circumstances of jail,” he said.

The event was co-sponsored by 18 groups from the University, such as the Office of Substance Awareness, Artists for Change and fraternities and sororities like Alpha Kappa Psi and Zeta Tau Alpha. Shelby Goldman, a member of the Zeta Tau Alpha said that her sorority could learn a lot from the night’s presentation. “Something like this will benefit all of the girls in the sorority because we will take what we heard here tonight, and discuss it in more detail amongst each other when we get home,” Goldman said.

Jackie Leming, a sophomore, went to the event with a group of her friends. “What was most moving for me was to hear how well some of the speakers’ lives were going and then they just took a turn for the worse,” said Leming. “It really shows how spontaneous and impulsive decision-making can backfire.”

Suanne Schaad, Substance Awareness Coordinator at Health Services, said that this is the seventh year that Project PRIDE has been to the University. “Many of the inmate speakers throughout the years have been young adults who were in college when they committed their crimes,” said Schaad. “This makes the interaction peer-to-peer and easy to identify for the students. It works so well because it is the inmates telling their story. They are not telling the students what to do, rather they are showing how their bad decisions led them to addiction, criminal behavior and jail,” said Schaad.

Schaad urges any student who thinks that they might have an alcohol or drug problem to visit the Office of Substance Awareness in the Health Center or call 732-263-5804. The service is free and confidential.



PHOTO COURTESY of howtomakemoneyonline.mobi

The four inmates who participated in Project PRIDE had a combined prison sentence of over 25 years.

scrape any funds together for their habit, she said that her and her boyfriend decided to go to a pharmacy. “My ex-boyfriend robbed it [the pharmacy] by knife-point while I was in the car,” said Jessica. Protecting her felon beau, Jessica took the wrap for him because she had no criminal record and expected a lenient punishment. “I told the police that the robbery was my idea.” As a result, Jessica was sentenced to three years in prison and three years parole when she gets out.

Jessica said that she volunteers for Project PRIDE so that young adults can learn from her mistakes. “I come here to let the students know that no one is exempt from going to prison,” said Jessica. “I want them to learn

the night she left a New York City bar after drinking four beers and hit a motorcyclist who died from the impact. “I thought that I had hit a deer because there was blood covering the front of my car and I was in Northern New Jersey, where the deer population is high,” said Lauren. “But after a few moments, I saw a motorcycle lying next to my car.” The devastating accident put Lauren in jail for a five years. She says that she participates in Project PRIDE to honor the victim of her deadly decision and to let students hear her story so that the same misfortune does not occur to someone else.

Following Lauren’s share, Ridder took time to give examples of how people’s decisions behind the wheel

leg and, in turn, three years of her freedom.”

His next example was from a woman named Sophia who was sentenced to three years in prison for a vehicular accident that involved a fatality. “Several days before the accident occurred, Sophia smoked marijuana, but regardless of the fact that she wasn’t high at the time of the accident, she still tested positive for THC, the chemical found in marijuana,” said Ridder. Her positive drug test was enough evidence to convict her. “It is critical for people to understand the importance of safe driving,” a stern Ridder said.

The final speaker, Vincent, told the audience that he was a talented track and field competitor as well as a

EOF Students Inducted into National Honor Society

BRITTANY IRVINE
STAFF WRITER

Twenty-seven Educational Opportunity Fund students were inducted into Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society Thursday, October 4.

The students, advisors and university officials gathered in McGill Commons Club rooms for the induction of honor students with GPA’s of 3.0 or higher for two consecutive semesters.

The ceremony started with a reading of statistics and history of Chi Alpha Epsilon. According to Lupita Yonker, EOF Assistant Director/Counselor, “Chi Alpha Epsilon was founded to recognize the academic achievements of students in support programs like EOF and Federal Trio programs across the nation.”

The organization has been around since 1990; it has been at the University for five years. There are 78 chapters across the country.

After brief descriptions of the organization, the students were shown the honor material and its emblem, then they signed the ledger.

University officials, including Provost Thomas Pearson, Dean of the Center for Student Success Dr. Mercy Azeke, Associate Director of Residential Life, Mark Holfelder, and

with the EOF staff Program Director Colleen Johnson, Assistant Director/Counselor Lupita Yonker, Freshman Coordinator/Counselor Nicole Martinez, Sophomore Counselor Tyrone Smith and Math Tutor Al Fure were all present.

According to Yonker, Pearson “praised the students being inducted and their commitment to academic excellence.”

Other elements of the ceremony included a candle lightening ceremony, which, according to Yonker, “symbolized the enlightenment which enables the students to help one another.” Also, the students were given blue and white honor cords to symbolize their academic achievements, and a pin that finalized their membership.

Tyrone Smith, sophomore counselor with EOF, says that there are a couple of elements that he sees in each student, such as “self determination and the students’ ability to thrive without assistance from outside groups,” he said. “It takes little to get these students going.”

Smith also said that this organization is built on a connection, it encourages students to be and stay involved. He said he would love to see more and more students enter the Honor Society in the future.

Smith praised the students, “I think they already know we’re very proud.”

Smith said that there are about 140-150 students in the EOF program at the University and there is a 70% success rate of sophomore students inducted into the Honor Society.

The group of students that were inducted into Chi Alpha Epsilon are: Akil Billy, Amanda Barnum, Amanda Romeo, Ambar Leonardo, Andrew Mendez, Audra Spero, Christopher Pittman, Drew Corrigan, Gina Gilanyi, Jahmer Bunch, Jason Caianiello, John Peteroloff, Katelyn Agabiti, Kimberly Soloway, Kristine Gunningham, Maham Ayub, Melina Morel, Michael Acosta, Monik Suit, Natali Greco, Nicole Gafanha, Nohely D’Oleo, Antonia Popo, Rozalyn Morrow, Sana Rashid, Vincent Shockley and Zarrin Rahman.

According to the University website, “EOF is a state-funded scholarship program providing access to higher education for students with a genuine desire to learn but who are economically disadvantaged and could also benefit from academic support.”

To enter the program, incoming freshman endure an interview process. While in school, they must uphold their scholarship and maintain a respectable GPA.

A Letter From the President

Dear Students and Colleagues:

To say it has been an “interesting” semester would be an understatement. We witnessed many in the Monmouth University community step up to many challenges and overcome them. Reflect more on those big and little triumphs. Congratulate yourself. Look forward to progress in 2013.

Go off and enjoy your holiday with friends and family. I know you will continue to open your heart to those who are rebuilding in our area.

Thank you for your patience and kindness in 2013.

Linda and I wish you all a joyous holiday season.

Paul G. Gaffney II
President

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\$ince When Did the Holidays Become so Expensive?

THE OUTLOOK STAFF OPINION

Christmas as a child used to involve Santa Claus and snow forts. At our current ages, Christmas has come to mean purchasing the most expensive present, most likely a technology-based gift, in order to show we care. The typical Christmas present is no longer a hand-made craft which we give to our parents, but instead range anywhere from the iPhone to the Kindle. So what has caused the standard price for holiday gifts to raise in recent years?

There are various reasons as to why the price we spend on those we care about has increased. One thought is perhaps the price is too heavily enforced, especially in the media. Commercialism has put too much emphasis on cost and has many believing they not only want, but need, all these luxurious items.

The media also enforces the notion that quality reigns supreme. A prime example of this marketing strategy can be seen amongst jewelers nationwide. They make sure to include in commercials and advertisements that if you truly love someone, then you will buy their product as a sign of that love. It is a true shame such a special holiday has been so overtaken by commercialism.

There is another economic force at work increasing our holiday

spending. The financial scapegoat is inflation, which has been affecting Americans for years. It happens every year and we as consumers cannot stop it but only contribute to it. Thus, the increased cost of a present could simply be inflation.

The theory of inflation goes hand-in-hand with why Cyber Monday and Black Friday have gained so much attention and marketing in these past years. When prices have been raised, but you still are on a budget, these commercially marketed days are the only ways you can stay on budget and purchase gifts

one what they truly desire, we have begun to purchase items which we know the receiver would sometimes use but are also aware the receiver would know the item was expensive. We want to impress the receivers with a more costly present. Thus, the thought of the ones who are given the most expensive presents are the ones we love the most.

One final reason as to why the prices have gone up can be due to the rise of credit. These cards allow one to pay overtime and not up front, thus making it easier to gradually pay for an expensive present.

The bottom line is the present which is given should be centered around something that the receiver will enjoy and appreciate, whether it costs \$50 or 50 cents.

Many of you may be asking what the standard price is for college students who are already struggling for cash. Normally, most would agree the standard price per present has reached around \$50 but then again, if you lucked out on the sales the cost may be a little lower. We believe anywhere from \$20-\$50 could serve for family members, friends, and significant others.

This holiday season, rather than trying to buy the most expensive gift, presents should be a sign that you know someone well enough to celebrate them, who they are, and their company.

This holiday season, rather than trying to buy the most expensive gift, presents should be a sign that you know someone well enough to celebrate them, who they are, and their company.

your family and friends really want.

Along with these two big market days, things such as lay-away have become commonly used. Lay-away no longer creates the mindset to have money immediately but instead can be paid over a period of time.

Yet another thought which we agree with is that students in college are beginning to realize it is more satisfying to give rather than receive. This could also be a problem because college students now want to give to everyone we love the world. Instead of giving some-



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Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?

KELLY BROCKETT
ADVERTISING MANAGER

Many times in our lives, situations occur that are unexplainable and leave us with the unanswered question, “Why did this have to happen?”

This question can lead us to focus on how unfair life seems and cause us to contemplate all the negatives present within the given situation.

By frantically searching for the answers and reasoning behind every struggle or challenge that is placed in our way, we are missing out on seeing the good hidden within the bad.

Some of us attempt to cope through the hard times positively through the assistance of quotes and clichés, such as “everything happens for a reason.”

Others may avoid these types of sayings since they appear so vague and complex, and may not seem to bring them enough closure.

Today, I would like to prove that everything does happen for a reason, and that there just may be a reason why bad things happen to good people. By doing so, I would like to share a personal story as an example.

On Monday morning, November 26, 2012, I received the unfortunate news that someone very close to me had passed away. She was my coach, my teammate, and my friend. I was an absolute mess, as I am sure anyone else that crossed Amy Jones-Eades’ path in their life was as well.

She was the type of person that could light up a room with her warm presence and beautiful smile, which was often combined with a witty comment or two.

Her passion, positivity and never ending determination in all aspects within her life are qualities that are found few and far between, and just a small percentage of the many qualities this young heart possessed.

In January of 2011, at the age of 27, Amy Jones-Eades was diagnosed with stage 4 colorectal cancer. This diagnosis meant that Amy was no longer able to compete as an all-star cheerleader or as a competitive dancer.

Besides struggling with her health and having to give up many things that she once kept near and dear to her heart, the long road ahead was also going to make it difficult for Amy to continue to coach her dance teams, which meant the world to her.

This type of news is devastating for anyone to hear and the initial blow can hit each person in a different way. Many would expect it to be normal if Amy chose to break down and be devastated with the news and fear the long and difficult journey that lie ahead.

If Amy had these emotions at all, she sure hid them well. Amy chose to take this challenge head on and not let it keep her from coaching her teams through this illness to not one, but two back to back world championship titles. She also received the coveted 2012 Dance Coach of the Year award.

She continued to coach her teams, push them to the best of their ability and inspire each and every person that heard of her story along her journey. Even on her most sickly days, she refused to give up and always gave thanks and credit where it was due.

Amy has touched so many lives through her many roles as a daughter, a sister, a family member, a teammate, a friend, a coach, and a fiancé.

I am sure all of us who knew her or that have heard about her story are spending most of our days asking ourselves, “Why her? why do bad things happen to good people?”

Although it seems unfair and no answer can fill the hole in our heavy hearts, I believe she both came and went as a lesson.

I believe bad things happen to good people as a lesson for us all.

Amy taught us several lessons through her two year battle with cancer. Those are to never give up, how to stay committed and how to see the good in everything.

Amy remained so positive, selfless and determined to be there for her friends, family, teams and anyone else that needed her through a time that one might think should have remained focused on herself.

However, she believed that staying positive and keeping her life as normal as possible was what kept her alive.

Every memory I have of her is one of her smiling and cracking jokes. Even when I went to visit her in the hospital and she was lying in bed, most likely in pain, she kept that same upbeat, quirky and positive attitude that she was known for throughout battle and from what I understand, never complained about her situation or asked anyone to feel sorry for her.

Although many of her family and friends wish that we could have her back in our lives so she could continue to brighten our days with her one-of-a-kind,



IMAGE TAKEN from facebook.com

Amy Jones- Eades (above) touched the lives of many through her positive spirit and encouraging energy while also making an influential impact on the cheer and dance industry.

“AMYzing” personality, knowing that these next few weeks, months and years are not going to be easy without her, what we can do now is help her legacy live on and learn from the un-

intentional lessons she has left behind.

After all, as Amy always said, “Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass, it’s about learning to dance in the rain.”

How Young is Too Young for Marriage?

Engaged at 21, One Student Shares Her Experience of Impending Marriage

MORGAN HOLLINGSWORTH
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

“But you’re so young! Don’t you want to live?” I always laugh when people ask me this. As far as I know, you don’t stop living once you’re married. You don’t fall into a void of nothingness where you no longer do anything.

In fact, I’m hoping not, since I’m engaged to be married soon after I graduate in May, and yes, I’m only 21. I believe I’m lucky. I found the man that I want to spend my life with early, and we both believe that we are mature enough to take the next step.

I’ve always been the classic 21 going on 30. I hate going out, I am a complete homebody, and I worry more about paying off my student loans and getting a great mortgage rate more than anyone I know.

It’s important to note that marrying relatively young is not for everyone. Everybody isn’t ready for a lifelong commitment such as marriage, and when it’s forced, more often than not, it will crash and burn.

Most of us have seen a divorce up close and personal, be it our own parents, a friend’s parents, or a family member. This may scare many from marriage, especially when we are often seen as immature and not fully knowing of the evils of the world.

I’ve felt this myself. My parents married when my mom was 20 and was craving any excuse to escape her own family. They

divorced 14 years later, and my mom is always telling me they were simply too young to understand what they wanted at the time.

My fiancé’s parents suffered a similar fate. They were married when his mother was 18, and they divorced 5 year later. She too, tells me that she was too young and looking for what to do after high school with college not in her future.

I see both of these circumstances as our advantage because, with this in mind, we go into marriage with the sober idea that there will be problems, but no matter what, divorce is simply not an option for us.

In addition, it made me promise myself never to say ‘yes’ if I didn’t believe I was ready.

On the other hand, being engaged young has brought its own issues to my life. A few of my friends have almost completely broken off contact with me. It’s as if I’m too mature for them now, as if I’m a grown up and it’s a disease that they do not want to catch.

Others now see me as motherly, asking me for advice rather than out on a shopping and gossip date.

In contrast, some of my family sees me as the silly niece who’s going to be the first to get married in my generation. I’ve heard lots of “Are you sure?” and a few disapproving whispers.

My parents are okay with it, more or less. My dad, since day

one of my dating my fiancé, has told me that we have a “good thing going on,” and advised me not to “let him go”.

My mom always tells me that I was born at least 25, and I’m more mature than she is, so she whole heartedly believes I’m making the right choice for me, even if it scares her to death.

So the real question is, “How young is too young to be engaged or married?” I believe that this is an impossible question to answer.

Who can put an age on something like that? Yes, I believe that 16 is too young, but what about once you’re a mature adult who can vote and shoot a gun and make important decisions for themselves? If you’re ready, go for it. I have some advice before you get engaged or even think about it though.

A magazine I once read suggested doing these five things with your significant other before jumping the gun.

Go through one major family event: It can be the death of a loved one or a family pet, or another extremely emotional event. It’s important to know how you will support one another during a time like that.

Live together: if you’re religious values allow it. I cannot imagine not living with my fiancé before being married. Moving in together, learning about how each person runs his or her days and how you need to bend to make it work is extremely stressful and WILL put a strain on your relationship if you let it. I cannot imagine that stress in addition to being newly married.

Go on a week-long vacation together: No, really. Can you spend a whole week with no work or family to interrupt you with this other person? It’s a good way to find out.

Talk about what you each want: Make sure you’re on the same page. If you want four kids and to live in the town your mom

grew up in, but your significant other wants to travel the world and have no children, you might need to reconsider.

Make sure that you are in this for no other reason than you love this person so much that you cannot be without them: Make sure there is nothing nagging in the back of your mind that adds to why you need to be with them.

So am I too young? I think not. I’m prepared to enter this marriage with the knowledge that it will not all be “My Fair Wedding” and white doves.

I know that marriage is not like when you’re a child and marriage is a ring pop or twist ties. It doesn’t end as simply as taking off the ring. I also know that getting that Tiffany’s engagement ring does not mean you’re ready.

You need to look inside yourself and answer honestly if you are too young and if you are ready. I know I am, and I’m ready for my wedding in June.

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Ways to Spend the Holidays, From Traditional to Unique

RACHEL GRAMUGLIA
STAFF WRITER

Want to spice up your holiday season? With a little cinnamon, a little nutmeg, and a dash of pumpkin spice (this combination would hopefully taste delicious), you'll find yourself a super-awesome-fantastic-unforgettable holiday season.

Okay, so adding spices to your holiday might not exactly "spice things up", but you get the point.

A lot of people are looking for new and creative ways to make their holiday season unique and special. Sometimes the holidays can be so frantic that people forget to sit down and enjoy a nice cup of hot chocolate with mallows.

What about spinning the holiday season 180 degrees, doing things that you hadn't done before, or maybe doing the same thing but amp it up a little?

One idea that could freshen up the holiday season would be to host a holiday pot luck. All of your friends and family can come together bringing their favorite dishes to make for the holiday season. By the time that everyone gets together, there would be all different kinds of food, ranging from entrees to desserts. Talk about all those yummy leftovers. There will also be plenty of food, laughter, conversations, and memories.

Another idea that could sizzle the season up would be having a holiday scavenger hunt. Come together with all of the families in your neighborhood (or hey, maybe even in your dorm floor or building) and compile a list of holiday themed items to find. Divide everyone into teams, and every time they get a holiday item, they have to take a photo with it. By the end of the scavenger hunt, they'll have a holiday photo album.

Now I'm going to pull out the big guns, but don't worry, tickets to this gun show happen to be free.

Pinterest is the Holy Grail when it comes to crafts and recipes for the holidays. If your sweet tooth and craft hands are calling for you, answer the call. It is the greatest thing you can do.

Go through your Pinterest (if you don't have one, it's not a problem) and search for holiday recipes and crafts. They have their own tutorial on how to create your own gift tags for presents and recipes that will have your mouth watering just by looking at the photo.

Pinterest has plenty of monthly challenges, so for December, bake something or craft something every day.

You'll have a festivity for the rest of the year. Haha, get it?

Another way to spend the holidays is to host an ugly sweater party. People love to hate and hate to love ugly sweaters. It gives everyone a chance to spread holiday cheer while wearing a sweater with a little too much holiday cheer on it.

It is also a riot to see who has the ugliest sweater at the party. The ones that light up are the best ones.

But what if you just want to do something on a whim during the holidays? Buy a plane ticket and don't look back on the past year until the New Year starts. If you can do it, why not?

Spend your holidays in another country or with relatives in a different state. It changes the scenery and gives you even more of a break from the frantic holiday scramble.

However, let's not forget some traditional ways to spend the holidays. Seeing the Radio City Christmas Spectacular, ice-skating in Rockefeller Center, and going to New York City to see the ball drop



IMAGE TAKEN from janesjourneys.com

There are many ways to spend the holidays, ranging from original ideas to classic traditions. A visit to New York City to see the Radio City Christmas Spectacular featuring The Rockettes is a common tradition among many families during the holiday season.

on New Year's Eve are just some of the classic and traditional ways to spend the holidays.

New York City always has something for everyone to do. It resembles past times for everyone. Something as simple as window-shopping on 5th Avenue in New York could be considered a traditional pastime for the holidays.

You would think that going ice-skating would be no big deal, but during the holidays it is a little bit surreal. You're surrounded by all of these people, some who can skate

and others who can't, but everyone is there for the same experience and to make memories that they'll remember forever.

Seeing the lights, listening to holiday carols, being a part of a global New Year celebration can make anyone's holiday special. Sometimes, the holidays do not have to be anything extravagant, but keeping traditions just the way they are makes the holidays special no matter what.

There are always new ways to spend the holidays. It is perfect be-

cause it supplies the freshest memories for a brand new year. You have to ring in the New Year with something zesty to remember, right? So buy a ticket to a different country, host a scavenger hunt, or bake and craft the entirety of Pinterest. If you want to keep it classic and go to the city with your family and ice-skate in Rockefeller Center, then go right ahead. Just be careful not to slip and fall on your bum, like a certain someone did (me). But for right now, Happy Holidays everyone, I'm going to make myself an ugly sweater.

Setting New Year's Resolutions

Enter the New Year with Achievable Goals

VICTORIA JORDAN
STAFF WRITER

Invincible.

That is how most of us feel when deciding what will be our New Year's resolution. Our goals, hopes, and dreams that we fathom of achieving seem like a hop, skip, and a jump away from becoming reality.

Go to the gym every day. Eat organic. Become a vegetarian. Quit smoking. No more sweets and desserts. Stop drinking alcoholic beverages. Spend less money on non-necessities.

Goal-setting is such a wonderful incentive for change, and aiming for tangible and achievable goals is much more practical.

Although the above list is a small portion of the most common New Year resolutions, most of them are not met. How come?

New Year's resolutions seem to be spontaneous motives that we make immediately after the holidays. It is almost a self-evaluation of ourselves during the past year, and we seek ways to improve who we are and want to be.

Long-term goals are one hundred percent attainable. However, they must be accompanied with short-term goals that allow us to take the small steps that are necessary to get to where we want.

When we desire for these goals to be met immediately, we lose sight of those minor yet signifi-

cant steps.

Without a realistic and practical approach to how your resolution will be achieved, it will be broken.

How can we make our resolution real without breaking it? The first and most important concept that must be understood is that attitude is everything.

If your New Year's resolution is to workout at the gym every day, yet you view exercise as a burden, your goal of losing weight or improving your physical health will not be achieved.

If your resolution is to instantly cut out all desserts yet you find yourself miserable at the thought of no late-night sweets, this resolution will not be met.

If any of your resolutions are going to make you less happy, they are not worth making.

As mentioned before, the most important part of making a resolution are the short-term goals.

Say you want to become a vegetarian. Rather than immediately cutting out all meats from your diet, select a few days a week the first month to eliminate animal products. The next month you can add on another day and so forth.

Say you want to reduce your alcohol intake. Rather than dumping every beer and liquor down the drain and refusing to look at anything that reminds you of drinking, give yourself a monthly or weekly schedule that allows you to visually outline which days to enjoy a few drinks.

Some of you may be thinking, "Why make a New Year's resolution?" It seems like a complicated and meaningless venture to come up with a goal that can be so easily broken, especially if the motivation to continue it throughout the year is lacking.

Not everyone decides to make a New Year's resolution. Some see January 1 as a day of simply starting over instead of starting fresh.

However, I think a lot of people decide to make a resolution to make the New Year feel as if it begins with a clean slate.

It provides an opportunity to excel at something, to do something good for yourself or others, and to become a better person.

New Year's resolutions may seem difficult to keep, but they are meant to challenge a person. Welcoming new things into our lives is the best way to learn more about ourselves.

Making a resolution will allow us to see if our attitude, personality, and character have what it takes to keep the promise we made to ourselves.

The holiday season is a time of self-evaluation, and the New Year is the time to make those changes that we want to see. So this holiday season, set tangible goals and work toward reaching them.

It doesn't have to be an immediate achievement, but proving to yourself that you can accomplish it is the best gift you can give yourself.

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Physician-Assisted Suicide May Become Legal in N.J.

Terminally Ill Patients Will Have the Option to Have “Death with Dignity”

ALYSSA GRAY
COMICS EDITOR

Physician assisted suicide may become legal in the state of New Jersey. The bill, A3328, or “Death with Dignity Act” was proposed by Assemblyman John Burzichelli but if passed will need the voters to approve it.

And it would seem that the public might follow suit with such a decision, in light of recent history of the bill, says Dr. Joseph Patten, Chair of the Department of Political Science and Sociology

“A few years back the United States Supreme Court upheld a physician assisted suicide bill in Oregon, known as the Death with Dignity Act, on the grounds that the doctor patient relationship links to privacy rights and that the state of Oregon was within its rights to allow terminally ill patients some say in the manner and timing of their passing. Some public polling also reveals that most Americans support this as a privacy right as well,” says Patten.

Dr. Gregory Bordelon, a lecturer of political science, agrees with Patten’s statement of a primarily supportive American consensus with the act.

“New Jersey is treading cautiously on the matter as committee hearings begin [very] shortly since the bill will ultimately be approved by the voters. This mechanism could give the bill some democratic legitimacy if a court challenge is brought,” said Bordelon.

He continues on to remark that “Coupled with the decision six years ago in *Gonzales v. Oregon*,

would solidify the law in constitutional terms, and it appears that [the] courts are cognizant of an autonomous, process privacy right in one’s decision to terminate one’s life.”

On a more detailed note, the Act would allow a qualified patient to self-administer themselves medication in order to end their life in a humane and dignified matter; which is a contrast to the current state law, where it is considered a crime to purposely help another person commit suicide.

If the bill is passed however, a patient with six months, or less, to live would need to make two verbal requests and one written request, and have two witnesses in accompaniment upon the written request, in order to receive a lethal dose of medication. In addition to the already complicated process, two doctors would need to certify the terminal diagnosis and send the patient for counseling.

Sophomore Marine Biology student, Renee Kelsey, contests that such a law would be a beneficial gain to the state as a whole. “Whenever you love someone you want to see them live and be alive. When they are terminally ill, or in a coma, or had a stroke for instance, they are not living,” said Kelsey.

She goes on to mention a personal experience involving her grandmother, and how that led to her approval behind the law. “My father had to make the decision to pull the plug on my grandmother when she went through a stroke. She used to be the most alive and energetic person I knew. When she had a machine breathing for her and wasn’t able to communi-



IMAGE TAKEN from <http://tx.english-ch.com>

Dr. Jack Kevorkian would help terminally ill patients by performing physician assisted suicide.

cate with anyone, everyone knew that she wouldn’t want to continue living this way,” Kelsey said.

According to Bordelon though, naturally there are going to be obstacles and those opposed to such a proposal. “Opponents of the New Jersey bill can point to several concerns with the legislation. The “six-month to live” condition may not be absolute if medical evidence can be put forth [proving] that some patients with particular afflictions could live longer. If that is the case, there could be an open question as to liability, possibly

both civil and criminal, to physicians who are involved in a ‘Death with Dignity’ situation,” said Bordelon.

Furthermore, he mentions that patients under the act do not have to consult with family members about the decision, and evidence concerning the patient’s mental state could be contested by the family members.

All of which leads him to determine that any amount of ascertaining the mental capacity of the patient must be done, all of which makes the declaration

to die under the act problematic; an issue which he comments was initially explored by the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of *Cruzan v. Director, Missouri Department of Health*

“These problems among others could have led to reasons why, despite early support in the fall of 2012, a similar bill was not passed by Massachusetts voters last month,” Bordelon states.

The final resolution will now lie on the shoulders of the voters and those who may, one day, have to make that choice.

New Jersey Legislature Ups Minimum Wage to \$8.50

Bill Now Awaits Governor’s Signature to Raise Minimum Wage by \$1.25

Minimum Wage continued from pg 1

adjust the wage each year based on the Consumer Price Index.

The CPI, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, is an index that measures average changes in the price level of consumer goods and services. “The CPI is a statistical estimate constructed using the prices of a sample of representative items whose prices are collected periodically,” the USBLS website explains.

Under this legislation and based on CPI projected trends, the minimum wage would rise to an estimated \$9.49 in 2017. However, many opponents are rendering this aspect of the bill unacceptable.

The fate of the bill to raise the state’s minimum wage now rests with Gov. Chris Christie. Despite the numerous supporters and opponents of the current bill, Christie has not yet gone public with his plans to sign or veto the proposed legislation.

Anticipating a veto, Democrats in the state Senate have already put a question on next year’s ballot that would write the wage increase and cost of living raises into the state Constitution, the New Jersey Senate website explains.

A major stipulation of whether or not the bill gets approval is Oliver’s refusal to abandon the bill’s automatic adjustment provision, which she explains typically increases the minimum wage more gradually, and some years not at all.

Assembly Deputy Speaker John S. Wisniewski backs Oliver in her

support of the bill, the press release explains. “There are families that need this money. There are families that are working hard, playing by the rules, but struggling to get ahead,”

He continued, “It’s unfair to expect people to be able to raise families and raise themselves up at a wage that does not take them beyond the poverty level.”

Wisniewski vowed, “It’s our

Senate President Steve Sweeney, who has worked hand-in-hand with Oliver in support of the bill, expressed a similar notion of unity. In a press release from the New Jersey Senate Democrats, Sweeney said, “Democrats are united in sending a strong message that people who live and work in New Jersey have a basic right to a wage that doesn’t condemn them to a life of poverty.”

“If this helps keep students out of debt, or reduces their debt when they graduate, this will be a big plus for them over their entire life.”

DR. STEVEN PRESSMAN

Professor of Economics and Finance Department

obligation as a legislature; it’s our obligation as a state to create the rules that allow these families to earn just a little bit more.”

As Democrats continue to advance the bill, the debate over minimum wage has become increasingly partisan. A measure that has been highly regarded by Democrats in the Assembly, Oliver said, “Democrats are united in their belief in a living wage for all New Jerseyans, and we will now see if the governor shares our core belief.”

She continued, “Hopefully, the governor will sign this bill as is, but if he does not, then we’ll quickly take stock and weigh our next step, including asking the people of New Jersey to decide this important matter.”

He explained in the release that if Gov. Chris Christie doesn’t sign the bill, that Democrats would want to let New Jersey voters decide. Sweeney explained, “Moreover, the additional money earned by those making minimum wage will go right back into the economy. And by tying future increases to the CPI, we will ensure that people can still see a meaningful wage increase, but one that does not cause severe hardship for business owners.”

Dr. Steven Pressman of the Economics and Finance Department explained that Monmouth students would also benefit if the minimum wage were increased. “If this helps keep students out of debt, or reduces their debt when they graduate, this will be a big plus for them over

their entire life,” Pressman said.

When there is an increase in minimum wage, there are a number of potential effects on the economy, Pressman described. “One possible result is that employers will try to get by with paying fewer workers higher wages,” he said.

Pressman added, “Low income workers who’s wages are increased will stimulate the economy by

spending more money. Therefore, local businesses will also benefit from an increase because consumers will spend more in local economy.”

Considering those factors, Pressman explained, there can either be an increase or decrease in employment. “When the purchasing power of the federal minimum wage was at it’s highest in the 1960’s, economies were prospering. Higher minimum wages give more workers more income, thus increasing stimulus to the local economy.”

The bill, if passed, could prove a blessing in disguise while New Jersey recovers and rebuilds from Sandy. As more low-income earners contribute to local businesses, the local economy might see posi-

tive results.

Josh Mann, a business management major and President of Alpha Kappa Psi, the University’s Business Fraternity, expressed that he agrees with the minimum wage increase. “I think it should be done more often because the cost of living changes every year and wages should reflect that,” he said.

Mann also believes that the increase will have a considerable influence on students. “Most college students don’t have the time to work full time jobs, so they get local jobs that often pay minimum wage. With an increase in wages, students would see a direct increase in their paycheck and have more expendable income which would help the whole area’s economy,” he said.

Christian Klein, a senior business management major, also supports the minimum wage increase saying, “With the current state of the economy and the rising cost of living, I think an increase is a good idea.”

“Everything gets more expensive over time, so it would only be right to raise the minimum wage,” Klein explained, “By raising minimum wage. It helps people be able to afford the things they need and cover their bills, especially in lower income brackets.”

As New Jersey residents await Gov. Chris Christie’s decision, the debate between the state’s legislators continues, drawing reactions from minimum-wage earners and low-income families across the state.

Mayor Cory Booker Takes On Food Stamp Life

JESSICA ROBERTS
STAFF WRITER

Newark Mayor Cory Booker has taken on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) challenge, during which he will live off the food stamp program for a full week. The challenge requires him to have a budget of only \$30 for the entire week, which rounds to about \$4.32 a day for food. He is not actually enrolled in the program, but rather living off the budget for that week in order to get a better understanding of what it is like to live off of food assistance and have a better understanding of the SNAP program.

The SNAP program is designed to help low-income households alleviate the burden of not having enough to purchase a necessary to meet their basic food needs at all times.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) between the years of 2008-2010 there was a record amount of 14.5 percent of American households who were food insecure, and required the assistance of programs such as SNAP. It also states that virtually half of SNAP partakers are children, with about 47 percent of them being under the age of 18 years old. The households that have children in them add up to about 71 percent of the participants in the SNAP program, with 51 percent of that being single parent households.

The program is designed to help those who are living below the poverty line, and have wages too low to lift them above it.

According to Booker's blog, on which he has been posting his results each day; the idea of taking on the SNAP challenge came from a Twitter conversation. Someone tweeted to him, "Nutrition is not the responsibility of the government", which, according to Booker, made him think about the many people of his community who are in need of the SNAP program and benefit from it in their everyday lives. After considering his followers' opinion, Booker suggested that they both live off of the SNAP program budget for a week in order to gain a better per-

sonal understanding of the program and the people who live off it.

Booker states in his blog, "My goals for the SNAP Challenge are to raise awareness and understanding of food insecurity; reduce the stigma of SNAP participation; elevate innovative local and national food justice initiatives and food policy; and, amplify compassion for individuals and communities in need of assistance. Over the next seven days, I plan to highlight the voices of people involved in local food policy, the SNAP program, and other related initiatives."

In his first day's blog, which he posted on December 4, Booker explains the challenges he already began facing living off the SNAP program. He talks about how he did not plan out enough of how he will eat, or what he will eat throughout the week. With traveling, and still an acting government official, Booker talks about how the first day of the challenge he was unable to eat at all until the end of it. Their needs to be consideration of what places will accept your SNAP dollars and planning of preparation of food.

Perhaps his biggest challenge, however, resulting from his poor planning, was that he was unable to obtain caffeinated drinks. For Booker followers, it is well known that he is a coffee lover. In his first day's blog, he stated that for the first time that he can remember, he will be starting his days without a cup of coffee.

On his second day, Booker says that he began to feel the full effects of living on a limited food budget. He once again addressed his poor planning of what would have been beneficial for him over the week, never needing to put that much thought into what he was going to have each day. He says in his blog that he is starting to realize the food choices that he takes for granted, as he is unable to put a few dollars into a vending machine for a coffee or soda.

Booker stated, "More than this though, the constrained food options I have for this short week highlight for me (with the hunger pains I felt today between small meals) what many hardworking families have to

deal with week after week." He expresses his concern that he may run out of food before the week is over.

Professor Alan Foster, a Sociology Professor at the University, thinks that is a good thing Booker is doing this. He states, "I think it is helpful for anyone to understand how it is to live on low income, especially for political leaders too. When political leaders do it, it draws attention to something that doesn't always get much paid to it. Especially in times like these, we need to understand that there are people who are having difficulty surviving."

To put into perspective of how little he has to manage with a day, Booker would not be able to afford a small side salad from the Student Center here at the University. It would cost him over his full day's limit.

Kirsten Webb, a junior public relations major said, "It is surprising to hear people live off a budget like this. I think it is a fantastic publicity stunt! He is getting a lot of attention and support for doing this."

The third day, December 6, was the toughest for Booker. As his schedule gets more intense, he learned from his mistakes and planned ahead preparing his meals for the day. He had to cut back on the amount of food he was taking in per meal, in fear of running out before the week is over. He spreads his meal out over a course of four hours, learning that if he does this it takes away from some of the hunger pains that he started experiencing after just two days of living on SNAP. He explains in his video blog that he had a hard time deciding between what was convenient and healthy.

It keeps getting tougher by the day for Booker, and on his fourth day, he decided he needs to cut back even further on his portion intake. He decided that in order to conserve the amount of food intake that will allow him to last throughout the rest of the week, he must spread out his meals even more, with smaller portion sizes. He spread his dinner of broccoli, cauliflower, black beans, corn casserole, and a sweet potato over the course of five hours ending at around 7 pm.

Dr. Joseph Patten, Chair of the



IMAGE TAKEN from talkingpointmemos.com

Newark Mayor Cory Booker is participating in SNAP, which shows the difficulty of living on food stamps and other public assistance programs.

Political Science and Sociology Department at the University, says what Booker is doing is a terrific thing. "It reminds me of when Governor Cody went and spent time in a mental institution in order to see the treatment of their residents. It is good for leaders to have an understanding of institutions and policy."

Booker expresses his growing understanding as day five came around of his life on SNAP. According to his blog, "This is hard. But what has me profoundly humbled is that this is a week, just a week, and then I'm done and can (and will) throw out burned food. But millions of Americans are living with food insecurity, with worry and concern about affording food – healthy, decent food for their families and children."

He continued, "Literally hundreds of people this week have reached out to help me, offered me tips, assistance and many offered me free food, not understanding the rules say I can't accept it. There is such good will. But we must direct it not at a generally well-fed mayor doing a one-week challenge but towards our own communities, neighbors and fellow citizens. We can end food insecurity, we can end food deserts, and we can give every child in this wealthy nation a strong nutritional foundation to achieve their dreams. And those achievements will bear fruit for us all."

On his sixth day of the SNAP

challenge, Booker talks about his diet being the same thing day in and day out. Unable to afford much more than buying in bulk, it tends to lead you to have a standard diet without much variety. He explains his understanding of people buying "junk" even when they are unable to really afford it, because a diet of the same thing over and over again is very tiring and mostly ends up being a diet of "empty calories."

With only one more day of his participation in his SNAP challenge, Booker is coming out with a greater understanding of the struggles that people ensure when living with food insecurities. He consistently at the end of each blog makes a call to action for more people to start to pay closer attention to programs such as SNAP, especially with the upcoming budget cuts being discussed.

Booker comments, "The SNAP program is at great risk for budget cuts as Washington pares federal spending to avert a year-end fiscal crisis. These cuts to SNAP funding could mean millions of more Americans – families with children, families with elderly and veterans – will live with less food, less options, and less hope."

Booker has brought a great amount of awareness to programs such as SNAP, and will continue to work with these programs in order to improve them and help those in need.

U.S. Supreme Court to Rule on Same Sex Marriage

The Court to Rule on Same Sex Marriage Amist Public Opinion Looking Upon It Favorably

Marriage continued from pg. 1

to file for federal programs but do not recognize their marriage even if the state in which they marry does.

This case comes at a time where same sex marriage is looked upon favorably by a majority of the public. According to politico.com, out of 1,000 likely voters, 40 percent of respondents said they support marriage equality. Thirty percent said they supported civil unions and 24 percent said they didn't think same-sex couples should be able to enter any type of legal union. President Barack Obama announced in May of 2012 that he supports same sex marriage.

Susan Pagano, sophomore political science major, said this was a long time coming. "I think that the fact that the Supreme Court has finally decided to rule on the issue just shows how important of a topic it has become. It's true that it is a hot button social issue, but it is truly becoming an extremely important topic for countless individuals," said Pagano.

According to the same politico.com poll, 63 percent of 18 to 29 year olds believe same sex couples deserve to marry.

Pagano agrees with this statement.

"I believe that the younger generation's approval of it is also proving how important it actually is. In the previous two elections, youth voters have shown up to the polls in huge numbers, and that's important. People in Washington understand that this issue is important to a good portion of the voting electorate, more so now than it ever was. I think that it's about time for the Supreme Court to finally offer its opinion on the matter, and I'm curious to see how they will rule," said Pagano.

John Feldmann, an alumni from the University, said, "I think it can be either a good thing or a bad thing. If the Supreme Court comes out with a ruling against same-sex marriage, it will horribly cement our institutional structure against equality for a long time. However, if the Supreme Court rules in favor of same-sex marriage, it may either grant a federal right or at least push other states to follow suit."

Jen Simes, senior political science major, thinks that the idea of public opinion affecting the Supreme Court is unlikely. "I don't think that the Supreme Court taking up the ruling is necessarily a reflection of public opinion but rather something that will influence future public opinion. There were still seventeen

states that had laws on segregated schools when the United States Supreme Court ruled on *Brown v. Board of Education*, and sixteen states banning interracial marriage before they ruled on *Loving v. Virginia*. There are thirty states currently that ban same-sex marriage and a ruling on California would likely nullify or at least encourage the nullification of other states' bans on it," said Simes.

Dr. Christopher DeRosa, associate professor of history, believes that public opinion is leading to a large shift. "We have experienced since 2004 such momentum toward recognition of same-sex couples' right to marry that I do not think the bigots' rear guard action will last long. The notion that one group of citizens can deny to others a right they reserve for themselves is fundamentally un-American, and in the long run, doomed," said DeRosa.

Joanna Bianco, sophomore criminal justice major, said, "Since marriage is a state rights issue, it should not be taken up by the Supreme Court. Also the federal government already defined marriage as the union between man and woman."

Simes continues to say, "If the lawyers in defense of same-sex marriage can successfully argue that

Prop 8 and the Defense of Marriage Act are unconstitutional because of sex-based discrimination, then I would be (and am) pretty confident that the USSC will vote in favor of reversing and remanding both laws."

Students at the University believe it's about time same sex couples received equal rights and benefits. Michael Hamilton, junior political science major, said, "We are in the twenty-first century, it shouldn't be an issue. It should be equal."

Oscar Sanchez, Student Government Association President, is excited to see what the Supreme Court has to say on this issue. "As excited as I am for it, I'm just as nervous. The fight for same sex equality has been a long one and this is a monumental step that could make it or break it. All I can do is stay positive and hope that the government sees the big picture and moves forward with the rest of society," said Sanchez.

Dr. Gregory Bordelon, lecturer of political science, said that this case was going to be heard sooner or later. "There would be little question that the Court would have to hear these cases, sooner or later. The wave of ballot measures in the states on same-sex marriage and the varying public support across the country virtually assured review," said

Bordelon.

Dylan Maynard, junior history major, said, "With the recent shift in opinion, more states have been voting in favor of same-sex marriage. I believe the court would not want to intervene on the democratic process, but if struck down, one could find solace in the fact that the future justices and legislators will be more open-minded when it comes to marriage equality and the issue will be revisited and ultimately, legalized."

Bordelon believes the impact could be seen either way. "If the Court strikes down DOMA and Prop 8 as unconstitutional, states that preclude marriage between people of the same sex will effectively be forestalled from enforcing their state laws and as same-sex married couples move between states, the 'Full faith and credit' argument will take hold and eventually any states laws denying marriage rights to same-sex couples will erode away."

Bordelon continues, "If the state reverses the appellate court decisions and/or throws the cases out on standing grounds, I think you'll continue to see a random progression through the states of ballot initiatives on the matter bolstered by Washington and Maine's approval in November."

Hoey Brighton Castlewall Norwood Cedar Norgrove Highland Hollywood Main Deal Pinewood Pier Village Fountain
Garden Apartments Van Court Woodgate Ocean Park West End Bath Beechwood Orchard Hilltop Fairfield

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**Off-Campus
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Tuesday, January 29th

12:00pm-4:00pm

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Second floor of the Student Center



For more information about the 3rd Annual Off-Campus Housing Fair,
please contact the Office of Off-Campus and Commuter Services by
calling **732-263-5651** or emailing **occs@monmouth.edu**.



What is your ideal job?

COMPILED BY: ALEXIS ORLACCHIO



Steven junior
“My major is finance and my goal is to work on Wall Street. Hopefully I get there.”



Jessica senior
“I’m a psychology major and I would like to use dolphins as therapy with veterans and special needs children.”



Sean sophomore
“I want to be a fantasy writer because it’s so cool.”



Payal freshman
“My dream job is to work in Washington. I’m a political science major and I would like to work in the Department of State.”



John freshman
“I’m a biology major, so I’d like to become a doctor.”



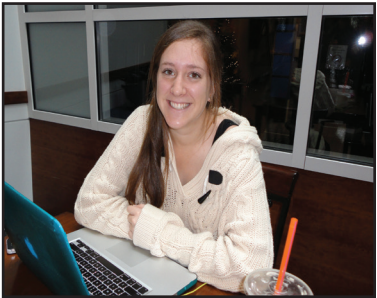
Adriana junior
“To work for National Geographic as a photographer and travel the world.”



Mia senior
“Probably to be a plastic surgeon since I’m a pre-med major.”



Raven junior
“I want to be a wedding and party planner. I want to host the events that people will remember for the rest of their lives.”



Michelle junior
“Sports broadcasting. I want to work for ESPN or the Golf Channel.”



Yvette sophomore
“I always wanted to be an actress on a TV show.”

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Holiday Bites Sure to Entice

RACHEL FOX
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Yet again, it is the glorious holiday season. What is it that makes this time of the year so wonderful, one may ask? For starters, the holiday season is typically comprised of family gatherings, winter festivities, frosty air, holiday cheer, and gift-giving. Perhaps the most delightful of all, however, is the delicious desserts that one may consume throughout the duration of the season.

Let’s take a moment to be honest with ourselves: eating desserts is inevitable during the holidays. Quite frankly, this time of the year is an excuse to devour these mouth-watering goodies that we may otherwise feel guilty even contemplating consumption. Now that you have been reassured that ingesting great quantities of holiday treats is acceptable, let’s take a look at some creative and delicious holiday treats that you bake to impress your family and friends with the originality as well as taste.

Instead of cooking regular vanilla or chocolate cupcakes, you can spice up the appearance by turning them into Reindeer Cupcakes. A batch of 24 of these cupcakes can finished within two hours by following a simple Betty Crocker recipe.

The ingredients needed are 1 box of box Betty Crocker Super-Moist cake mix, one container of chocolate frosting, a decent amount of chocolate sprinkles, water, vegetable oil, eggs, 24

large pretzel twists, 24 miniature marshmallows, 24 red cinnamon candies, and 24 small red gumdrops.

After compiling these ingredients, set the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit and begin to mix the cake mix, water, vegetable oil, and eggs. Next, disperse the batter into a 24-count cupcake pan and bake for 1 hour and 45 minutes.

When the cupcakes are baked and cooled down, the fun really begins as you can decorate your cupcakes with the chocolate frosting for the reindeers face, cut up pretzels for the antlers, cut up mini marshmallows for the eyes, a gumdrop for the nose, and the cinnamon candy for the mouth. Presto: you now have Reindeer cupcakes to be adored and then eaten by family, friends, and even yourself.

If you do not feel like baking but wish to continue with a holiday themed treat, than an even simpler yet equally scrumptious holiday treat is the Snowman Sundae. All that is required ingredients wise is vanilla ice cream, large marshmallows, semisweet chocolate chips (raisins can substitute), maraschino cherries, liquid red food coloring, and red licorice twists.

To create this adorable ice-cream snowman, place one scoop of the vanilla ice cream into a serving bowl. Next, make the face of the snowman with the liquid food coloring on the large marshmallow. Place the large marshmallow on top of the scoop of ice cream. One maraschino cherry

can be added on top of the marshmallow to appear as his cap.

For the snowman buttons, place three of the semisweet chocolate chips on the front of the snow-

sert differs from the typical goodies such as cookies and cupcakes, which adds to its originality and charm. This adorable Snowman Sundae is perfect to use if one is

healthy in dessert. If this sounds like you, than Santa hats are what you wish to make.

In order to make Santa hats, you will need strawberries, brownies, and icing. To begin, you need to either make or buy the brownies. You will want the brownies in a small circle shape unlike their usualy square appearance. Once the brownies are ready, put icing on one of the circle sides. Then, cut the top of your strawberry off and proceed to place the rest of the strawberry on the brownie’s icing. Next, add a dab of icing on the point of the strawberry. What you now have is old St. Nick’s hat.

Sophomore Lindsey Pieschl does not mind what she is cooking, as long as she is cooking, she is content. “I just like keeping tradition. I make cookies with my mom every Christmas while we listen to Christmas music. It’s a Christmas tradition and of course they are yummy,” Pieschl claimed.

Though all of these desserts mentioned are creative and yummy, Professor Jerry Cook of the English Department prefers more traditional desserts. “During the holidays, I prefer to eat pumpkin pie that is not overloaded with spices. That way, you can actually taste the pumpkin,” Professor Cook stated. With this statement, it is evident that people tend to prefer different types desserts, whether it is classic chocolate chip cookies or Reindeer cupcakes.

Either way, desserts have helped create lasting memories of the holiday season.



IMAGE TAKEN FROM weheartit.com

Santa Brownie Hats require little time and only three ingredients: brownies, icing, and strawberries.

man. The licorice can be used for the snowman’s arms by placing them on either side of the scoop of ice cream. This holiday des-

hosting a party and needs a last-minute dessert idea.

This holiday season, many have been trying to tie in something

Capture the Holiday Spirit with These Decoration Tips

KELLY HUGHES
STAFF WRITER

It is a struggle to find the holiday spirit when being confined to cinder blocks, apart from your family, and without the smell of cinnamon candles or pine tree.

Professor Kathryn Nogueira, who attended MU and lived on campus for one year also had difficulty recapturing the Christmas spirit on campus in her time spent as a student.

“For me, I think it might have been difficult to get into the holiday spirit while living on campus because during those last few weeks of December, when you are still in your dorm, most students are focusing all of their attention on finals and not necessarily any upcoming holidays they might celebrate,” Nogueira recalled. “I think a lot of people also associate the holidays and their holiday spirit

with the traditions they had at home or with their families growing up.”

It seems as if the only way to find the holiday spirit when in college is to add ambush your dorm with holiday decorations. Whether it be Christmas or Hanukah, there are plenty of ways to deck your dorm with holiday decorations.

If your holiday is Christmas, it is always a pleasure to find the perfect Christmas tree with your family and put it up in your house. As many of you probably do not have enough time to head home and follow through with the tradition. Fortunately, you can still make do with an artificial tree and spruce up your dorm for a low price.

An artificial tree can be purchased at the K-Mart on Route 36. A tree is

just the first step to make your dorm reflect like the holiday season. The next step would be to decorate it with ornaments, lights, and a star. You and your roommates could even have a

“Most students are focusing all of their attention on finals and not necessarily any upcoming holidays they might celebrate.”

KATHRYN NOGUEIRA
Adjunct Professor

Christmas decorating party with your MU friends in order to spread the holiday spirit.

Sophomore Allie Phillips has a tree in her Redwood dorm room and said, “Without living at my house, I miss

the Christmas spirit, so I put up a tree in my dorm to make it feel more like home.” Tinsel is another quick and easy decoration to glisten up the room. Red Bows as well as wreaths can be hung on doors or walls to add a classic look. Hanging up stockings with the names of your roommates is a spirited idea too.

Sophomore Jackie Leming and her suite mates hung up stockings in their suite in Willow Hall. Leming explained, “It makes the room more festive and we like putting treats in them to surprise each other.” If you want to, you can incorporate your own Christmas treat for your roommates by placing a bowl of candy canes as a center piece on the common room table.

If your winter holiday is Hanukah, there are many decorating options posed for you this season. Candles are not allowed to be lit in the on-campus housing, but this does not mean you have to go without a Menorah. There have now been many Menorahs which are no longer actual candles, but instead they use electricity.

Another great way to get in the Hanukah spirit simply involves a dreidel. By playing this game with the candy gold coins, it will become easier to find the holiday spirit.

If you want your palates to find the Hanukah spirit, then you can either make or buy festive treats such as potato knish, latkes, or loukoumades.

Whether you celebrate Christmas or Hanukah, decorating your dorm will help you feel more at home this holiday season.

Recreate Your Space Over Break with Simple Projects

ALEXIS DECARVALHO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

One’s room is merely a reflection of their personality. Within four walls, you can easily learn what a person’s favorite color is, their fondest memories, musical interests, or heroes. These decorations represent the individual and express their lifestyle in a number of ways. If you are looking to transform your room into a personal safe haven, the following do-it-yourself projects can do the job at an affordable price!

A way to make your space clean and organized without taking away character is to draw attention to the small things. Replace calendars with a personalized chalkboard for under \$20. For this task, all you need is a sponge brush, garage tape, chalk-

board paint, and a piece of wood. Coat the board once with the chalkboard paint and let it dry for one hour. Then, add a second coat and let it dry for the next 24 hours. After the total 25 hour wait, you can now use it to record important dates and appointments, write your favorite quotes, or use as a place to draw.

Much like chalkboards, magnetic boards are also great for organization. A magnetic board can easily be made by lining a cookie sheet, or a pan, with contact paper. Magnet boards are useful for expendable memos, do-to lists, and more.

It can be well assumed that everyone has heard the old age adage, “A picture is worth a thousand words.” By personalizing your space with pictures, you can consistently be surrounded by everything and everyone

you care about.

Junior Lauren Cane said, “I have pictures of my friends and family in my room because I like to look back on the things I did and places I went and memories I made. It is fun to see the smiles we all have on our faces and remember those times.”

Another way to decorate your walls would be by creating original wall signs. Pieces of wood, canvases, and mirrors can be found at an affordable price at any craft and supply store. Use stickers to spell out a symbolic song lyric or quote you enjoy. Another option would be to paint the entirety of the sign using your favorite colors. Once dry, remove the stickers and place the work of art for display.

If you instead want an accent piece to your bed and not your walls, you can use your favorite t-shirts, whether

they remind you of your favorite team or even family vacations, these memories can be displayed for everyone to see by creating a t-shirt throw pillow.

Begin by laying the shirt flat on a table. Next, stitch the bottom and armholes closed, while leaving the neck area open for filling. A soft, fiber fill can be used for best results, but other items like foam or old rags can be used as well. Adequately stuff the shirt until plump. Once the neck hole is closed properly, use the pillow to add personality to your bed.

For when it gets dark, opt out of traditional lighting. Gather old mason or pasta jars and apply tape with any design of your choice to the outside. Spray paint the jar and remove tape when dry. Place a flameless, tea light candle inside the jar for safe and creative lighting.

Professor Rupa DasGupta, an adjunct professor of information technology, says, “Being able to make a place your own by being able to decorate it the way you want is important. The way you decorate your own space projects both how you see yourself and how you want to be seen. Coming home to a place that you’ve decorated can be both a source of pride and comfort.”

Decorations have the ability to represent memories, accomplishments, and aspirations. Although every individual’s room is different, the space serves a common purpose of self-expression, relaxation, and comfort. Decorations can be bought or made, whatever your choice may be, as long as you chose to decorate your space in a way that suits your personality best, your room will come out perfect.

Oh, There’s No Place Like Philadelphia for the Holidays

MAGGIE ZELINKA
LIFESTYLES EDITOR

While many North Jersey residents refer to “the city” as New York City, South Jersey residents prefer the smaller city of Philadelphia. While South Jersey locals are aware of the plethora of activities Philadelphia has to offer, many tend to overlook the Pennsylvania city in favor of the promoted New York City. With a wide range of activities from ice skating to plays to just enjoying the holiday décor, Philadelphia has everything to get in the holiday mood.

Without a doubt, one of Philadelphia’s most treasured holiday traditions would be none other than the annual New Year’s Day Mummer’s parade. These Mummies parade through the city commonly doing what is known as ‘the mummer’s strut’ in elaborate costume like outfits.

In fact, the term ‘mummer’ is German for ‘to masquerade.’ On January 1 at 10 am every year, they can be seen strutting on the streets of Philadelphia for eight consecutive hours eventually ending their parade at City Hall. English Professor Susan Stever has fond memories of growing up in Philadelphia and watching the Mummies strut.

“Local clubs spent all year working on costumes for the Mummies parade. This camaraderie, fair play, and kindness and the reciprocal neighborhood support really symbolized the city of brotherly love,” Stever recalled. “Jan 1st was often extremely cold in the 50’s and 60’s-but I have vivid memories of Mummies in full costume warming up in my school yard before the parade. I loved walking by to see the brightly colored feathers and hear the banjo music.”

Another local of the area, sopho-

more Steven Haskell, tunes into the mummer’s parade every year. “The Mummies parade is probably my favorite thing that Philly does for the holidays. Everyone dresses up and performs skits that make fun of popular issues. It’s just good fun,” Haskell said.

Much like Stever and Haskell, sophomore Jennifer Hoffman enjoys

River Rink, it is most commonly referred to as Penn’s Landing or merely River Rink. The ice skating rink is located right on the Delaware River and is one of the most popular spots to view the New Year’s Eve fireworks from. The River Rink costs a mere \$9 for admission and \$4 for skate rental as compared to NYC’s Rockefeller Center Rink which is a hefty \$25 for

With a cast equally talented as those on Broadway, the performance will be playing until December 30.

Many even enjoy a brisk walk around the city and enjoying the atmosphere. Senior Samantha Hopkins believes that Philadelphia’s number one winter holiday attribute is the decorations. “I like going to Love Park and seeing all the trees lit up

through garden during the holiday season.

One of Philadelphia’s favorite light themed traditions is Boathouse Row. Located right along the Schuylkill river, the buildings of Boathouse Row are all decorated the same way and reflect onto the water creating a magical appearance.

Much like New York City’s Bryant Park, the city of Philadelphia has their annual ‘Christmas Village’ in Love Park. This year’s ‘village’ persay includes 61 vendors. One of the main attractions of the Village, as usual, are the plethora of ornaments from lands such as Egypt, Russia, and Ukraine. The vendors also sell items from wine, to art, to clothing, to toys and much more. You can also get pictures with Santa Claus at the Christmas Village.

Others, like Philadelphia native sophomore Eryn Siddal, enjoy the variety of fine dining offered in Philadelphia. “South Street has really awesome stores and food places to shop, not just during the holidays but all year round. I’d compare it to Canal Street in New York. There’s also really nice restaurants in Center City like the Moshulu which is actually a ship turned into a restaurant right on the Delaware River,” Siddal stated.

Freshman Mike Cisero enjoys the array of restaurants in Philadelphia but likes them even more during the holiday season because they bring his family together. “I like Philly during the holiday season because of the great restaurants the city has which my family and I go to,” Cisero said.

Whether it be with friends, family, or a certain someone, Philadelphia provides a great alternative as it offers just as many, if not more, holiday activities than the chaotic New York City. However, for some, the chaos of NYC is part of its’ charm.



Philadelphia’s Boat House Row has been lighting up their buildings every Christmas since 1979.

watching the Mummies parade but from the comfort of her home. “While I have never gone [to the Mummies parade], it is fun to watch it on TV because it is unique to the city of Philadelphia. My family and I always watch it every New Year’s Day as a tradition to see all the string bands and colorful costumes that the Mummies wear,” Hoffman stated.

While the Mummies tradition is not until the New Year, there are many other options Philadelphia offers involving the holidays in December. One of the most beloved areas to go in Philadelphia around the holidays is the Blue Cross River Rink. While this site is technically called Blue Cross

admission and \$10 for skate rental.

Much like NYC, Philadelphia also has a production of Tchaikovsky’s *The Nutcracker* at The Academy of Music located on Locust Street. This year marks the 25th Anniversary of George Balanchine’s version of *The Nutcracker* being performed at the Academy of Music by the acclaimed Pennsylvania Ballet. The ballet is accompanied by the vocal talents of the world renowned Philadelphia’s Boys’ Choir every year.

Unlike the Radio City Music Hall production of Balanchine’s *The Nutcracker*, the Pennsylvania Ballet was formed in 1963 by a protégé of the world renowned George Balanchine.

along with all the holiday decor,” Hopkins proclaimed.

Light shows have been in high demand around the city. The two most famous light shows the city offers can be found in Macy’s on Market Street and at the Comcast Center on JFK Boulevard, both of which are free. If walking around the city, one can also pass by Rittenhouse Square and see a towering Christmas Tree light up.

Another light orientated option would be to make a trip to Longwood Gardens. Open year round, Longwood Gardens is a special destination during the holiday season. The Garden is home to an abundance of light shows and a beautiful, festive walk

New York City Entices Many with Holiday Traditions

TAYLOR KELLY
STAFF WRITER

It’s the most wonderful time of the year—to take a trip into New York City. The holiday season is in full swing and the daily drone of school may not be getting you into the spirit. If you are looking for a place where you can forget your ordinary routine and enjoy the cheerfulness of the season, NYC is the place to be. The Big Apple offers many different options to help you feel merry and bright.

The most obvious place to start is in Rockefeller Center, home of the annual Christmas tree that is placed there every year. This year’s tree lighting took place on November 28th, and the tree can now be seen in its sparkling glory through the holiday season. The cherished yearly tradition has even more significance this year after Hurricane Sandy in which the tree, originated from Mt. Olive, New Jersey, survived the mass destruction NJ endured.

After you visit the familiar attraction, you can make your way right to the Rockefeller Center ice rink, another landmark popular during this time of year. The rink offers a daily skating schedule, lessons, and even an opportunity for private reservations at its nearby restaurant. This is a fun option as it combines recreation with the spirit of the season all in one place.

If you love a good show, the Radio City Christmas Spectacular is something to see. Highlighting the world-famous Radio City Rockettes, this performance takes the audience on a journey through New

York City during Christmastime. You can watch Santa fly around in his sleigh through 3D technology, and watch a live nativity scene complete with real animals.

Throughout the performance, the Rockettes present their most cher-

ished numbers like “Let Christmas Shine” and “Parade of the Wooden Soldiers”, among other classics. The show runs for two hours of spectacular entertainment that has been around for 85 years, and the show just keeps getting better with age.

Junior Michael Migliaro recently saw the show. “It was really great. They did their classic leg kicks, which was cool to see in person. The show was also really kid friendly with the 3D additions. It was really fun,” he said.

If you want to experience Broadway at Christmas time, you are

in luck. The classic 1983 film *A Christmas Story* has been transformed into a musical that follows nine-year-old Ralphie Parker’s countdown to Christmas in 1940’s Indiana.

The movie, most known for the



Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree this year is an 80 foot Norway Spruce dawns by 30,000 lights.

can put you in the holiday spirit. A great way to spend time is to search for the most ornately decorated windows. Department stores such as Macy’s, Bloomingdales, Saks Fifth Avenue, and Barney’s have some of the most elaborate displays

that are designed and executed specifically for the holidays. You can even get some gift shopping done while on the hunt for the best windows. Junior Taylor Kennedy says, “I go to the city every year around Christmastime, and I always love seeing the store windows and how they change every year.”

If you want to find your inner kid again, visit stores like Toys R Us and FAO Schwarz, which are even more fun during the holiday season. With attractions like Toys R Us’ Ferris wheel and FAO Schwarz’s *BIG* piano, you are bound to feel like a kid on Christmas morning.

If you are looking to chill out or warm up during your visit, you may want to visit one of the city’s most talked about locations. Serendipity 3 is famous for its Frozen Hot Chocolate, which can be enjoyed with various desserts offered at the eatery. Jacques Torres’ shop in Brooklyn offers delicious hot chocolate, but also some other sweet treats to take home with you. Pinkberry has various locations throughout NYC, and it offers frozen yogurt in holiday flavors like gingerbread. Dylan’s Candy Bar is a fun store to explore, and it’s a great place to look for personalized gifts for those who love candy. If you are looking for something sweet to eat, there are plenty of places to try.

The Time Warner Center in Columbus Circle offers the free “Holiday Under the Stars,” which features an LED star show. You can watch the stars change colors in time with classic holiday songs as they dance with brilliance and sparkle. Another option free of cost is located in Grand Central Terminal. The “Holiday Train Show” not only showcases tons of locomotives, but also displays miniature versions of NYC landmarks like the Empire State Building decked out in Christmas designs.

In order to get into the holiday spirit, New York City has so many options that you are sure to enjoy. Whether it be taking a trip to Rockefeller’s ice rink, or watching the Rockettes dance in unison, there is something available for everyone. No matter what you choose to do, a trip to the city is sure to get you jolly for the holidays.

Country Star Shines at the MAC

NICK SEGRETO
STAFF WRITER

As the holidays inch closer and closer, I've been in my room grinchin' away with my pup. In a desperate attempt to cheer myself up, I went to the Martina McBride "Joy of Christmas" Tour (which involves 16 charity performances) this past Sunday night. Did her cheerful and upbeat collection of Christmas beats make my heart grow three times its size? Realistically, no, as that would lead to a boatload of medical problems.

McBride has been awarded "Top Female Vocalist" by the Academy of Country Music three times and received "Female Vocalist of the Year" from the Country Music Association four times. She is a Grammy-winning artist who has sold more than 18 million albums throughout her career.

Emotionally, I'd say it got me feeling considerably better. I was very happy to hear that the concert donated five dollars for every ticket sold to the New Jersey Hometown Heroes, a group dedicated to helping those devastated by Hurricane Sandy. They were founded in 2008 to support families facing sudden crises, and they've been a major presence in the past few weeks, though they also help the elderly, the disabled

and victims of domestic abuse regardless of natural disasters.

Given the huge amount of people that showed up for the concert, that generosity had already put me in a good mood.

I actually went into this concert not knowing much of anything about McBride, other than that she was a country singer who has won many awards for her talent. Going in thinking that she had a strong following was my second biggest understatement of the year.

The first thing I noticed was that the stage designer went all out to make the set as colorful and holiday filled as possible. The person in charge of the lights also caught my attention with the choreographed movements and colorful synchronicity.

The concert started with more slow paced Christmas songs like "White Christmas" and "The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire)". After a few songs, McBride walked through the audience and talked to several fans.

It was at this point that I started to realize how enthusiastic the audience was. The only way they could have shown more excitement was if they brought vuvuzelas.

Another part that made me feel good was a montage of soldiers stationed in various parts of the



IMAGE TAKEN from photobucket.com
Martina McBride played at the MAC as part of her "Joy of Christmas" benefit tour.

world wishing a happy holidays to those of us at home. It's just one of those things that make me so grateful that brave men and women like our friends in the armed forces exist.

After an intermission, McBride sang more fast paced

songs that you'd hear in movies (like "Home Alone", like "Run Run Rudolph").

McBride even did a cover of the ever-popular "Mr. Grinch" song while former NJ Devils player and active participant in the Sandy relief effort Jim Dowd

(who, as a member of the Devils, won the Stanley Cup in 1995) did a reading of the Dr. Seuss story that inspired it.

McBride closed the concert with a few more slow songs like "Silent Night" before wishing everyone happy holidays. As I left the concert, I was hard pressed to be in a bad mood. As McBride said in her concert, "If I can't help you, then there's no hope."

I have to say that country and folk aren't my preferred types of music, nor are Christmas tunes, sadly. While this wasn't my favorite type of music, the concert left a much better impression on me than my last concert outing.

I wasn't the only one who left the concert in better spirits. Dave Rasmussen of Nazareth, Pennsylvania has been to her concerts three times thus far and said, "Her voice shines above everything else." Luann Aschettino, another attendee of the concert, liked how McBride had a little bit of everything, and how the acoustic of "Silent Night", "Made my hair stand on end."

Martina McBride should give herself a pat on the back. She managed to convince a grumpy Grinch like me to venture through the rainy night to catch some holiday joy.

Hubbell Makes it Easy to Understand Dyslexia

IAN SILAKOWSKI
STAFF WRITER

This past Monday, December 3, I saw a very exciting and involving documentary called *Dyslexia: The Movie*, directed by Harvey Hubbell V.

This was part of this year's On Screen, In Person film series, once again moderated by University specialist professor Andrew Demirjian, who chose this film, along with a committee of people, "Because I think it operates on lots of different levels, it's really smart, it's really funny, and it has an important message and it really makes you reconsider how you view other people and how you think about disabilities." Did I think it operated on differ-

ent levels, was smart, was really funny and carried an important message? Read on and find out.

In this film, Hubbell, a dyslexic himself, seeks to inform and educate the audience through his own life experiences as well as by discussing the topic with people who are researching dyslexia.

It also involved other dyslexic individuals who came forward about their lives and how they deal with the condition. Many of them were celebrities such as Billy Bob Thornton, Sarah Joy Brown, and Steven J. Cannell, the creator of television shows such as *21 Jump Street*.

Sprinkled throughout the film are facts about dyslexia and clips of Hubbell randomly asking people on the street what dyslexia is.

Many people knew of it, but a lot of people, sadly, can't give him an exact definition.

Though the subject is serious, Hubbell lightens up the film without mocking the subject or making it inappropriate. When facts are shown on screen the music becomes cartoony and the film moves a little faster. Hubbell also wants the audience to have a fun time while watching and he makes fun of the stereotypes surrounding dyslexia. Hubbell himself is excited by the celebrities he interviews and that makes him very relatable to the audience.

Not only is he passionate about what he is doing, he has a good time doing it. I asked him what the most rewarding experience about making the film was and he responded, "Times like this, when I'm talking to people and spreading the word, and people come up to me and say, 'Hey that's the story of my life.' Basically we all share the same exact situation all the time." Regarding the reason why he went the documentary route he stated, "when you tell the story from the truth we did a documentary because it's where the truth is."

The film does chug along at a very good pace; not fast but certainly not slow. There is plenty of information throughout the film. This film mixes comedy, facts, and awareness with ease. It's not jarring and it gets the point across. When appropriate, the film will speed up, but it stays focused and engaging.

The choices for interviews are both interesting and personal. By interviewing celebrities, the film shows the audience that even people who are successful and famous aren't invincible. Their stories about growing up with the condition is both inspirational and uplifting.

Hubbell interviews his family about what it was like for him to grow up. He openly discusses that he didn't have the best child-

hood to the point that he didn't feel free until after high school. The film stresses that family is very important at times like these. His family was very supportive and his sister describes him as a "challenge" with a chuckle. By structuring the film around his life as a dyslexic, the film has a central "character," not a "subject," to focus on.

I was invested in the film throughout the showing. This is one of the most enjoyable documentaries that I've seen, and I have seen a lot throughout my life. Normally they are interesting, informational, and do get their point across, but enjoyable is not one of the words I'd use to describe them.

I learned deep information, such as that fifteen to thirty-five million people suffer from dyslexia and ten percent of the prison population in America can't read.

Similarly, I learned that Einstein was dyslexic and had his mother read to him.

Billy Bob Thornton describes having dyslexia as like seeing a ghost.

Another fact stated during the film was that no one really knew about dyslexia until the printing press was made.

Following the film was a panel discussion, moderated by the director, featuring the following experts in dyslexia: Dr. Gordon Sherman, Executive Director of the Newgrange School & leader in the field of dyslexia research; Dee Rosenberg, Assistant Director of the Newgroup School; G. Emerson Dickman Esq., an attorney specializing in the representation of children with disabilities; Beth Ravelli, a parent advocate and a member of the New Jersey Reading Disability Task Force; and Catherine N. Duckett, the Associate Dean of the Monmouth University School of Science.

These individuals came prepared to tell the audience what

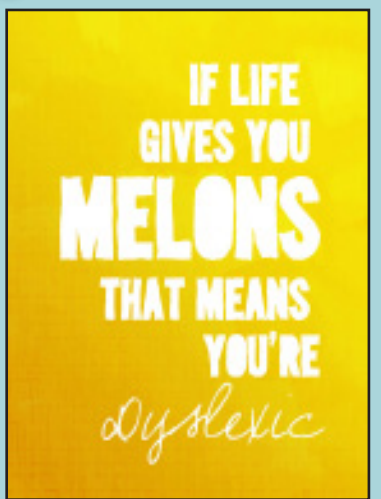


IMAGE TAKEN from etsy.com
This installment of On Screen, In Person discussed dyslexia, a surprisingly common disorder.

we can do to help with the study of dyslexia which showed how passionately involved they were. Even when they couldn't give the audience every single bit of information asked for, the panel gave the audience an idea on where to start and what to do next.

If you are fan of documentaries, I highly recommend this one. It has plenty of facts, but it does not drag or bore. There is a lot of information that will be new to audiences who haven't seen it.

University junior radio and television major, Jason Kane, thought, "It was very intriguing. I didn't really know anything about this topic. I, like the rest of the general public thought it was just reading backwards, so it was very eye opening."

Even if you just like to watch documentaries on a rainy day and relax, put this towards the top of your list.

Films like these remind us that everyone has problems- and we can all triumph over them. I'd like to see more personal documentaries such as this one.

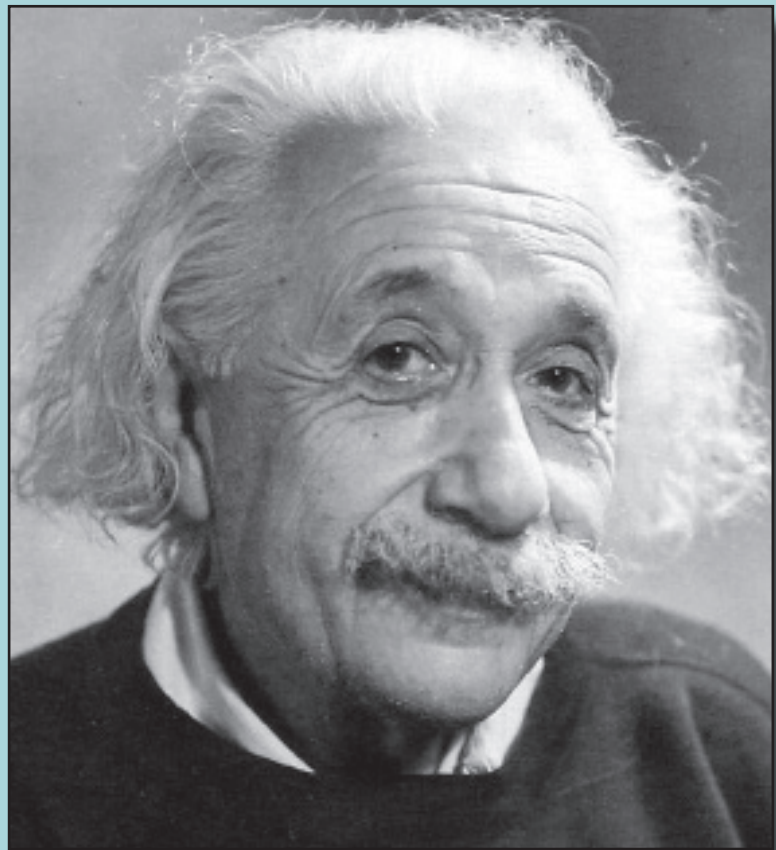


IMAGE TAKEN from i-am-bored.com
Dyslexia: The Movie featured anecdotes from many famous dyslexics- including Albert Einstein.

Holiday Concert Brings Joy to All

ALEXA CAPLINGER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The University’s Department of Music & Theatre presented its 14th annual salute to the holiday season with this year’s production of “Holiday Joy,” a performance of seasonal favorites featuring student, faculty, and special solo talents on Thursday, December 6 at 7:30 pm. In the splendor of Wilson Hall, family, friends, and students gathered to enjoy the holiday music.

Wilson Hall was lit up in holiday spirit with numerous beautifully decorated Christmas trees, garland wrapped up the rails on the main staircase, and twinkling lights hung throughout. Performers were dressed to impress, from evening gowns for the opera singers to simple black dresses for the glee club.

Attendees paid \$15 to sit on the first level and watch members of the University perform. President Paul Gaffney was also in attendance. Student admission was free as the concert sold out and had standing room only. Students stood on the second and third level, watching below and waiting for the show to begin.

Megan Roberts, freshman English and theater major said, “I’m here to see my friends. I’m excited because I love holiday music and I know my friends will be great.”

Among the performers were the University Chamber Singers and Concert Chorus, under the direction of Professor David Tripold, performing the classic “In the Bleak Midwinter” and “A Hanukkah Remembrance.”

The Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of Professor Michael Gillette, assisted by Professor Bryan Jenner, performed “Christmas Festival” and Ralph Vaughn Williams’ “English Folk Song Suite.” Returning from last year’s debut is the “Harmonic Joules,” the glee club, under the direction of senior Jasmine Walker, performing “The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting on An Open Fire)” and “This Christmas.”

Henry Siebecker, senior theater arts major and a member of the chamber choir, discussed the

amount of time put into the show. “Chamber choir is a class that meets twice a week for an hour and fifty minutes each time. David Tripold and the chamber choir try to work on the quality of the voice, not just on the pitch.” Siebecker admitted to enjoying the concert and the amount of people who attend.

Siebecker said, “Wilson Hall is just wonderful for singing because it echoes through. Sometimes it’s a problem but we have David Tripold and other of our music professors who know the mechanics of music so well that it doesn’t even matter.”

New this year was the Opera Workshop, under the direction of Professors Mark Wilson and Kathleen Myrick, with students doing duets from “The Magic Flute” and “The Marriage of Figaro” by Mozart. Also new were the University Jazz Hawks, conducted by senior Jonah Santorello, performing songs by Duke Ellington and Glenn Miller.

The concert finished with the astounding Exultation Ringers of the Colts Neck Reformed Church who joined Concert Chorus to perform “Hallelujah” from The Messiah by Handel.

Imer Huertas, freshman marine biology major, shared, “It’s been great being in concert choir. I’m very happy with the amount of people that [are] here. My favorite part was the Jazz Hawks.” Huertas’ fellow choir member Hannah Wallace, freshman anthropology major, added, “It was a lot of work, especially with Hurricane Sandy. The concert is very festive.”

Brandon Wiener, sophomore theatre major and chamber choir member, said, “The hurricane affected us a lot. We were actually supposed to do another song and we could not do it because it was too challenging and there was not enough time to learn the song.”

“Holiday Joy” was just over two hours and left a lasting impression on the attendees. The magnificence of the holiday spirit inside Wilson Hall combined with the festive music brought the true feeling of the holiday season and reminded all of its rapid approach.

Student Spotlight: Guy Battaglia and 99 Regrets

NICOLE MASSABROOK
CO-ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Freshman Guy Battaglia has spent a lot of time on stage this semester. He played antagonistic redneck Owen Musser in “The Foreigner” at Woods Theatre, and he will take the stage in Anacon Hall on Friday night as the lead singer and guitarist of the band 99 Regrets.

The Park Ridge native has been playing music for nearly half of his life. Battaglia said that he grew up with many musicians in his family, so it wasn’t surprising when he developed an interest in music. “I began playing alto saxophone when I was in fifth grade, but then realized that I could not play the music that I enjoyed listening to on it. So, when I was 11 years old, I picked up the electric guitar and took lessons from my uncle,” Battaglia said.

The type of music Battaglia enjoyed listening to was rock, and 99 Regrets is an alternative rock band. When asked to describe their sound, Battaglia said, “99 Regrets has the alternative sound similar to that of Green Day, Weezer, Foo Fighters, and even blink-182. To this sound, we have powerful guitar solos that make the songs unique in the genre.”

99 Regrets was formed two years ago while Battaglia was still attending Park Ridge High School. “Going through various lineups since my freshman year of high school, I finally discovered Samir Tawalare (drums) at the beginning of my sophomore year of high school. Then junior year I asked fellow theatre/marching band friends Kevin Leone (bass) and Bryan Zeug (guitar) to join.” The band has been going strong ever

since.

The four boys have played at many different local venues including The Stone Pony. Battaglia is particularly fond of that experience. “Playing The Stone Pony for the final round of the Break Contest (to play the Bamboozle Festival) was like a dream come true. The sound system was incredible and it was definitely a performance we will never forget,” said Battaglia.

Battaglia said the lead singer of Green Day has been the most influential to him. “Billie Joe Armstrong is the reason why I play guitar and sing. Aside from sharing the same birth date, I grew up listening to Green Day, and that will always be my favorite band no matter what they put out,” he said.

The musician also cites legends such as Jimi Hendrix, Slash, and Eddie Van Halen as influences. Battaglia said, “Each of them have created styles that separate them from everyone else and I know that I may not be the best guitar player in the world, but I really want to try to have my own distinguished sound.”

Battaglia’s talents extend beyond vocals and guitar. He also taught himself how to play bass guitar and drums five years ago and has recently started to learn piano at the University. He also writes 99 Regrets’ songs. “I mostly write all the songs and then show them to the band. Once we play them, they

write their own parts and we work on certain areas of the song such as a bridge or a breakdown. I have been writing songs since I was 13 years old and I just keep writing as much as I can,” he said.

While graduation is a few years off for the music industry major, Battaglia has high hopes. He said, “I hope to make it somewhere with this band and my ultimate dream is to tour the world and perform my music for as many people as possible.”

That dream isn’t just about Battaglia wanting the spotlight. His reasons for wanting to play music are more about his audience. “Music has a certain way of affecting people in which it enlightens them and motivates a positive feeling. I hope that my music will leave a positive effect on people all over the world,” Battaglia said.

You can listen to 99 Regrets at [youtube.com/user/username270](https://www.youtube.com/user/username270) or [soundcloud.com/99regrets](https://www.soundcloud.com/99regrets). Check out their Facebook page, [facebook.com/99Regrets](https://www.facebook.com/99Regrets), for updates on their upcoming EP and future shows.

99 Regrets will play in Anacon Hall on Friday night at 7 pm for A Wave of Hope Benefit Concert, part of the Hawks Fly Together for Relief effort, alongside many other local bands. Tickets for the event, sponsored by SGA, are \$7 and proceeds will benefit victims of Hurricane Sandy.



IMAGE COURTESY of Guy Battaglia

99 Regrets consists of (left to right) Samir Tawalare, Guy Battaglia, Bryan Zeug, and Kevin Leone.

Peter’s Top 10 Albums of the Year

PETER QUINTON
STAFF WRITER

As finals week approaches and winter break comes within arm’s reach, it’s clear that 2012, and potentially the world as we know it, is coming to a close. With the end of the year approaching, I’d like to reflect on some of my favorite music releases from the past year.

While there have been many albums this past year that I obsessed over and played to exhaustion, I narrowed it down to 10 albums that really left a strong impression on me. Give these albums a chance if you’ve missed any of them this year.

1. Cloud Nothings, “Attack on Memory”: In what is easily my favorite album of 2012, the Cleveland rock band Cloud Nothings add some serious muscle and grit to their previously scrappy sound, resulting in a hefty album of raucous yet surprisingly catchy post-hardcore. From the moody opener “No Future/No Past,” to the harrowing epic “Wasted Days,” to the infectious pop punk of “Stay Useless,” Cloud Nothings manage to put together equal amounts of angst, passion, and hooks to create a masterpiece, in all of its loud, soar-throated glory.

2. Mount Eerie, “Clear Moon / Ocean Roar”: Though a “singer-songwriter” by nature, Phil Elverum, who records atmospheric folk music as Mount Eerie, uses his songwriting abilities to try and capture the majestic yet powerful essence of nature, while simultaneously searching for his place among it. His two back-to-back releases this year, in this sense, act as something of a yin and yang: The soothing, graceful beauty of “Clear Moon” both matches and contradicts the feral brutality of “Ocean Roar.” Though they are separate releases, it’s hard to imagine the two without one another.

3. Royal Headache, “Royal Headache”: On their debut album, the Australian garage-rock band Royal Headache charged through the door with a raw, poppy collection of punk tunes that sound like they’re straight from the sweatiest basement club. It’s hard to deny the infectious riffs and relentless energy of tracks like “Psychotic Episode” and “Girls,” but what really makes the group special are the soulful vocals supplied by Shogun, adding a nostalgic and almost romantic feel to the groups buzzing punk rage.

4. Baroness, “Yellow & Green”: Though previously known for craft-

ing loud, sludgy, and intricate metal, the Georgia metal troupe Baroness took a big chance this year with their latest, an ambitious double album that mostly cleans up the groups sound with folk, psychedelic, and more traditional rock influences. Songs like “Take My Bones Away” prove the band can still be as heavy as ever, but their new approach helps transform “Yellow & Green” into a sprawling adventure of a double album that helps Baroness transcends metal and rock music in general.

5. Beach House, “Bloom”: Beach House has been making beautiful, dreamy indie pop their entire career, but on “Bloom,” the band takes their signature sound and fires it into the stratosphere, only to let it explode in a brilliant flash in a starry night sky. With monolithic tracks like “Lazuli” and more understated gems like the elegant “On the Sea,” Beach House successfully push their sound to epic heights while sticking firmly to the guitar/keyboard dynamics the group has always favored.

6. Death Grips, “The Money Store”: I can safely say that this may be the most jarring entry on my list, but it is also the most unique by far. A schizophrenic blend of rap, rave, punk, and noise, “The Money Store”

sounds completely other-worldly while also totally destructive. Vocalist MC Ride raps like a rabid wolf on many of the albums tracks, but its futuristic rave romps, like “Get Got,” “I’ve Seen Footage,” and the brilliant “Hacker,” give the album a necessary pop edge.

7. Japandroids, “Celebration Rock”: Though featuring nothing more than a guitarist and a drummer, the two members of Japandroids put enough power, passion, and energy into their music to completely transcend their limitations, and their latest, “Celebration Rock,” is no exception to this. With fiery fuzz-rock songs like “Fire’s Highway,” “Evils Sway,” and the glorious “House That Heaven Built,” Japandroids approach each track on “Celebration Rock” like they know it will be their last, making sure each riff is more massive than the next.

8. PS I Love You, “Death Dreams”: It’s hard to imagine rock music as loud, overdriven, and fuzzed out as this sounding like fun, but PS I Love You pull it off effortlessly with their latest, “Death Dreams.” Despite being a very morbid album thematically, high-octane blasts of guitar-pop like “Sentimental Dishes” and “First Contact” sound massive and trium-

phant, featuring some of the most impressive, blistering guitar playing skills that I’ve heard all year.

9. Grizzly Bear, “Shields”: With their latest album, Grizzly Bear continues their path of dominance in the indie music world with one of their strongest efforts yet. Though not as bombastic or outright mesmerizing as their past two albums, “Shields” instead works with subtle details and a greater focus on space to create an album that covers more broad landscapes, both internally and externally. Despite this, songs like “Yet Again” and “Half Gate” still manage to leave room for plenty of surprises.

10. Flying Lotus, “Until the Quiet Comes”: On his excellent new album, instrumental hip hop artist Flying Lotus crafts a dreamy, almost subconsciously affecting alternative to his more spastic and energetic past efforts. Tracks like “Getting There” and “Tiny Tortures” utilize subtle hip-hop beats and soft undercurrents of bass that you float along rather than pump your fists to, but there are moments, like the sub-woofer destroying “Sultans Request” and the sputtering “Putty Boy Strut,” that manage to keep things varied.

Local Paleontologist Harbors Ancient History

MARISSA WEBER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On the outside, the yellow, bungalow-style home looks innocent enough, just like any other house on the block. A passerby would have no idea that this home was a time portal. Much more than meets the eye, this house brings you back millions of years into an archaic landscape filled with relics of inconceivable but true species now absent from the ecosystem.

The house's resident is Ralph Johnson, an older gentleman with perhaps more hair on his chin than his head, who curates a paleontological research museum in his basement. There are more than 20,000 catalogued specimens from extinct creatures that live, once again, in this Long Branch residence. It is home to: a 30 pound piece of leg bone from a dinosaur that weighed eight or ten tons; remains from ammonites, which are relatives of squid that lived in coiled shells and traveled in schools; shells so well preserved that even after 75 million years

the mother of pearl is as iridescent and shiny as ever.

Like the home's exterior, the living room is inconspicuous with its plush carpets and chairs with velour cushions as well as glass and ceramic figures resting on tabletops. A fancy dining room sits adjacent, seemingly more for show than for use. It is the descent down the short staircase that transports you and makes you forget that you're in Long Branch in the 21st century.

The sloped ceiling above the stairs is concave and even Ralph, at no more than five-and-a-half feet tall, needs to bend awkwardly to fit beneath. A sign above deters creationists from entering.

The room resembles a typical cellar; a low-hanging ceiling, concrete floor, an exposed wooden slat or two, and the temperature is noticeably cool. But then there are the dozens of glass cases which house hundreds of fossils, classified taxonomically, which means according to biological groups. Thousands more reside in organized drawers.

This collection began around

1970 when Ralph was in college and he organized the Monmouth Amateur Paleontological Society (MAPS). The specimens are the fruits of the group's laborious dedication to excavating, digging, preparing, and preserving these prehistoric fragments.

"It's the adventure, the challenge of finding things that not everyone else can find. Just the fact that you can hold something that was alive 75 million years ago is a fascination in and of itself," said Ralph with genuine awe. However, his fascination with paleontology began years before MAPS' conception.

Ralph's fascination with dinosaurs and fossils arose when he was four years old, but at the age of eleven, local college students inflamed his interest and paved a way for what would become his life's passion. The mother of a neighborhood friend was boarding science students from what is now the University. For an Earth Science class, the students dug for fossils in a local riverbed and gave young Ralph two of their finds. "If someone had given me a lump of gold, it couldn't have

made me any happier."

Ralph still has these two fossils; they sit in a mini frame on the desk where he catalogues every new addition to the MAPS collection. On the same desk is a typewriter ("Our label maker, it is very high tech") and a pin that reads 'Living Fossil.' "I like keeping things old-fashioned and quaint," said the aging fossil enthusiast. "That's how it started here, and it works."

In his teens and during the early years of MAPS, Ralph was a diehard digger. He and friends would go out nearly every weekend throughout the year, breaking ice in streams to dig when the temperature was below freezing. While he doesn't go out quite as frequently, he would still be considered an avid digger (in fact, one month before publication Ralph moved nearly two tons of dirt in search of a fossil). Now, just like years ago, Ralph does it for the adventure. He tells tales about narrowly escaping the caving in of riverbank walls, dodging angry snorting bulls, battling swarms of outraged bees, and pacifying angry homeowners with shotguns after honest misunderstandings regarding property lines.

MAPS continues to selectively add fossils to the collection, but because of the immense collection, they only add new species or those that are better preserved than what they already have. Even as the collection stands today, MAPS has much to be proud of.

Carl Mehling, decade-long MAPS member and the collections coordinator for reptile, amphibian, and bird fossils at the Museum of Natural History in New York, is impressed by the care that Ralph gives the specimens. "He has the definitive collection for the Atlantic Coastal Plain, and he arranges and cares for it just like a museum collection is taken care of," explained Mehling. "He has things that are so fragile; most people would bulldoze it blindly, or not process it the right way, but not him."

Johnson is clearly proud of the MAPS collection he so passionately tends to, and with good reason. "Even museums don't have a collection like this," said the amateur paleontologist, who by day works as a park ranger with the Monmouth County Park System. "When people are looking to do research on cretaceous fossils of New Jersey or the Atlantic

Coastal Plain, places like the NJ State Museum and the Museum of Natural History in New York, they use us as a resource," he continued proudly. "This is the premier collection." Mehling confirms, "Everyone refers [interested researchers] to Ralph."

The study of fossils is still vital today, even though everything being studied is long dead, or even extinct. "Basically, we can study all the living things that are on earth today," explains Mehling, "but you need the temporal [researching the past] aspect of study to see the whole picture. The fossil record illuminates big shifts like mass extinctions and environmental changes which are some things that we really have to look at today."

If it's taken advantage of, the scientific potential of the MAPS collection is immeasurable. John Morano, Professor of Journalism at the University and author of the Morano Eco-Adventure Book Series, is also a MAPS member and has been digging for fifteen years. He is disappointed that students and faculty don't take enough advantage of the collection. "This opportunity is one that doesn't exist for most universities on the planet, and we have it right here, almost steps from campus," he said. He also added, "I can't begin to tell you how much I've learned from Ralph about collecting, documenting, preserving and appreciating this fossil legacy."

Encouraging appreciation for the study is one of Johnson's talents, as his enthusiasm remains as palpable as the clay that surrounds his beloved fossils. Once he starts talking about anything cretaceous, his speech quickens and he moves excitedly from drawer to specimen to photograph, telling anecdotes of his experiences in paleontological time travel. "We are just the most recent players on a very, very ancient stage and paleontology is sort of a time machine that allows you to travel back and visit the players that came long before you."

If Johnson's own ardor for the study of fossils isn't enough to prove his devotion, his hope for MAPS' legacy is. "By itself, a fossil is absolutely nothing. It's a lump of semi-consolidated sediment; a piece of dirt. It is nothing. The magic happens when the fossil interfaces with the human mind. At that moment, the fossil lives again."



PHOTO COURTESY of Bob Badger

Long Branch resident Ralph Johnson collects dinosaur bones, 75 million year-old crustacean remains and more in his own basement for others to see.

Flee the Flu

TAYLOR MANTHEY
STAFF WRITER

It's that glorious time of year again. When the days get busier and the nights grow colder, we all fall victim to symptoms of the common cold and flu; and of course, the true Grinch of winter never has convenient timing. "Who has the time to get sick now a days?" said senior Sonya Shah.

With the holidays upon us, people are more concerned with shopping for their friends and family and less concerned with remembering to take care of themselves. Contagious viruses are obtainable year-round, but it's during the fall and winter months that our immune systems are at an all time low. Between the stress of the semester ending, earlier mornings and later nights, it's almost impossible to avoid getting ill.

Bitter cold weather equals

spending more time indoors and it's because of this additional time spent with others that germs spread so easily. The deadly concoction forces us to be more susceptible to getting sick, but that doesn't mean preparing yourself is a waste. Use these prevention tips to help you boycott the trend.

Number one and most effective: get vaccinated against the flu. The vaccine is available by shot or nasal spray and the best time to do this is during the weeks of October and November, although December isn't too late.

Washing your hands is one of the most overlooked methods of prevention yet our hands are one of the most contaminated parts

of our body. Coughing, sneezing, runny nose; its like germ central. All it takes is 15 seconds with hot water and antibacterial soap to kill germs instead of spreading them. Simple healthy habits such as eating a balanced diet, exercising, getting enough sleep, maintaining your stress level, etc., are all preventative measures that can help you stay sick-free.

Most respiratory bugs come and go within a few days with

no extreme or lasting effects, so nursing yourself back to health isn't too complicated if symptoms begin to arise.

First off, know your options when it comes to over the counter medicines. "There are so many kinds of cough syrup, I never know which one to get," said Junior, Emily Hepes.

Have a sneezing, runny nose? Then you're looking for antihistamines.

Runny nose? Cough? Suppressants should loosen up mucus and do the trick.

What about the unfavorable stuffy nose? Nasal decongestants and a bottle of Vicks Vapor Rub is the way to go.

Being educated about the med-

icines available to you can really help tackle your sickness and shorten its stay.

It's also very important to remain hydrated with plenty of water and Gatorade. Restoring electrolytes makes you feel better instantly, especially if a fever is involved.

Last but not least, rest. Designated time for lying in bed and watching TV is just as crucial as sleep.

Adjunct professor Stephen Wexler agrees, "It's easy to get caught up in the chaos and forget to take care of yourself. It's not until you're already sick you realize 'Hey, I should probably take a day off.'" Giving yourself and body ample time to rest and recoup is a vital part to curing your sickness. So, when you're starting to feel a little under the weather this season, remember to stick to traditional remedies and bed rest. Being sick on your days off is certainly no holiday.

"It's easy to get caught up in the chaos and forget to take care of yourself. It's not until you're already sick you realize 'Hey, I should probably take a day off.'"

STEPHEN WEXLER
Adjunct Professor

‘Cool’ Story Bro

ERIN MCMULLEN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

From the time that we first begin to interact with others, we become acutely aware of what is supposedly ‘cool’ and what is not. Still today, as students in college, we pride ourselves on the notion of being the coolest, the most popular, and the best liked by our peers. But what exactly does it mean to be cool?

In today’s society, there seem to be many variables that play into the definition of the word, but regardless of the ambiguity of its meaning, it is a widely acknowledged term that everyone strives to be perceived as.

If you search for the definition of cool in the dictionary, Merriam-Webster considers it to be slang and defines it as “fashionable, hip.” This vague explanation of the word is an example of the fact that we, as a society, create what we take to be cool.

Dr. Johanna Foster, sociology professor, explained, “In sociology, we would say that ‘cool’ is a social construct, meaning that in every society, and within smaller groups in that society, people in interaction with others define the standards of ‘cool.’”

As a society, we depend on one another when it comes to almost all things, and defining what’s considered to be “cool” is no exception. We decide whether or not the people that we interact with, as well as ourselves, make the cut when it comes to what’s “in” in today’s world. These standards of “cool” continuously change, which makes it even more difficult to properly and elaborately define the term.

Freshman Gracie Zwernemann said, “I think what’s considered cool changes over time because people are always changing, which means that their thoughts and opinions are changing too. What’s cool to you one year isn’t going to be as cool to you in a year or two.” The expectations of

someone who is deemed “cool” in college are obviously not the same for the “cool” kids in a fifth grade class. In each specific group that we participate in, during every stage of our lives, there seem to be newer and more defined roles for those who wish to be considered “cool.”

It also appears that many of our main ideas and perceptions of what’s “cool” come from those who have more power or authority than us.

“The meanings of ‘cool’ are generally connected to the status hierarchies in a social system, such that those with more social power, prestige, and wealth are often at a greater advantage in defining and enacting ‘cool,’” Foster explains.

Perhaps the best way to exemplify Foster’s statement would be to take a quick glance at the images produced and promoted by the media. Celebrities are the backbone of what’s “cool” in today’s society, and it is solely because of their social status. Not only do they hold influence in their everyday lives, but their product endorsements also speak volumes.

Makeup, restaurants, clothes, perfume, cereal, sports drinks, you name it; almost everything sold in stores today is backed by a celebrity. Fame is cool, so naturally, the product with a famous athlete or performer’s face on it is too. Celebrities hold a large amount of influence over our society, and it appears that it is mostly the men and women in the lime-light who define what’s “cool,” whether it is intentional or not.

“‘Cool’ is basically dependent on the majority. Whatever the majority thinks is popular is what most people call ‘cool,’” Zwerne-mann explains.

As a whole, people in our society are easily swayed by the opinions of others. This makes it easier for the concept of “cool” to change. For some people, conforming to what is considered to be “cool” by the majority is the



IMAGE TAKEN from nycprgirls.com

The definition of what is ‘cool’ today comes from social authorities and people’s conformity to the labels those authorities create.

way to go, but for others, it is the exact opposite. Although there are obviously a lot of people who feel pressured by the standards of ‘cool’ in today’s society and who are willing to change themselves to meet them, there are just as many people who take a different approach.

“In college especially, I think it has more to do with being yourself and not trying to be something you’re not more so than conforming to the beliefs of others that makes a person ‘cool,’” Zwernemann explained. It takes a lot of courage to stand up to the majority, but there are plenty of people who do it by creating their own idea of ‘cool’ and neglecting the already constructed standards

placed in front of them by society. Not conforming is a hard thing to do in today’s world, especially with all of the pressures of the media and those around us. Everyone wants to be accepted, and everyone wants to be thought of as “cool,” but who is to say that there is certain criteria that needs to be met in order for that to happen?

In order to be seen as “cool,” our society has made it seem as though we have to meet these unrealistic and completely ridiculous expectations of what is or isn’t in style. The groups that we have participated in throughout our lives have altered our perceptions of ourselves based on the ideals of the world that we live in

today, which has lead our generation to lose it’s sense of individuality.

Not all is lost, however, because there are still people in the world like Zwernemann, who believe in the importance of being you, even in today’s society. Regardless of what the majority may deem as “cool,” no one has the ability to tell you how you are supposed to act or feel in order to achieve a certain status in society. There is nothing more important than feeling confident in yourself.

In the words of author Irving Wallace, “To be one’s self, and unafraid whether right or wrong, is more admirable than the easy cowardice of surrender to conformity.”

Remember That Time?

Is It Those Nostalgic Memories That Define Our Friendships?

TAYLOR MANTHEY
STAFF WRITER

Friendship, a relationship between two people, who hold mutual affection for one another; a shared bond that makes someone who is not blood related, feel like family. What in the world would we be without our friends, right?

They are people who share similar interests, listen to our problems and give advice; the ones who support and encourage us and share many memories, tears, and smiles.

Have you ever wondered what exactly caused you and your best buddies to build such a relationship? As we all move forward in our lives, our environments change and we meet

new people, build new friendships, and lose touch with others. That is why the subject of friendship can be so interesting. It can be described as the study of sociology, psychology, anthropology, philosophy, and even zoology.

Such a controversial subject proposes various theories on what really causes friends to be friends. Take the

social exchange theory for example; a sociological perspective that explains friendship as a subjective cost-benefit inquiry. In other words, it insinuates that social behavior is the result of an exchange process. If the risks outweigh the rewards, people will vacate that friendship; if the risks are outweighed by benefits, then people will cherish that relationship. “You’ll find that your most positive relationships are ones in which the benefits outweigh the costs. You’re best friends, as you could say,” said Michael Pirrotta, psychology professor.

Others would say that it is the foundation that really matters. The value of compassion, understanding, honesty, trust, reciprocity, etc., the list can go on forever. These are the basic fundamentals to developing a true, lasting friendship. Seniors Nicole Fera and Rachel Gentry defined what makes them best friends. “It’s those memories of jamming out in the car or staying up till four in the morning just talking about life,” said Gentry.

“Or like that time we were racing to the car and you tripped and knocked your tooth out,” laughed Fera in response.

For these two girls, friendship was all about the memories they’ve shared over the past eight years: the good and the bad, the ups and the downs.

From a psychological perspective, friendships are considered the most vital relationships in the emotional life cycle of adolescents. “By building these bonds with others, pleasure and happiness are satisfied, and that

is why we pursue such a connection,” explained Pirrotta. By experiencing good qualities of friendship, self-esteem is heightened, self-confidence is obtained and social development increases. We are more comfortable and accepting of who we are as individuals if we find others who are practically the same.

“We’ve been friends since, I don’t know, second grade? We did track together our whole lives and just built a friendship from practicing, traveling and competing together,” said Dakota Dalzell about his friendship with best friend, Eric Thames.

Sharing similar interests, participating in sports, clubs, or activities, being assigned the same classes or living arrangements are all open invitations for a friendship to begin. “We’ve just always been there for each other and we always will be,” expressed Gentry, proof of a typical best friendship.

A study from Perdue University found that friendships that began during post-secondary school years last longer than the friendships before it. The friends you have now may very well be your friends forever.

Fera explained it best: “When you have a bond like that with someone, it’s unspoken; that person has your back and you’ve got theirs, no matter what.”

We rely on our friendships to get through the hardships of life and to share the happiness; without friends, it’d be much harder to define and accept who we are as individuals.



IMAGE TAKEN from s2.favim.com

Friendships developed in college are likely to be the strongest and longest lasting relationships of people’s lives.

Extended Use of Breast Cancer Drug Increases Remission

MOMNA AYUB
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A wide variety of breast cancer drugs are currently in use to treat the symptoms of the horrific disease. One specific drug, which has recently been noted for its potential in prolonging cancer remission, is Tamoxifen.

According to BreastCancer.org, it has been proven that the extended use of Tamoxifen can reduce the risk of breast cancer from coming back by 40 percent to 50 percent in postmenopausal women and by 30 percent to 50 percent in premenopausal women. Such results make a phenomenal difference because approximately 227,000 cases of breast cancer are diagnosed annually in the United States. Additionally, Tamoxifen has been proven to reduce the risk of a new cancer developing in the other breast by about 50 percent and has shown promising results in keeping cancer away from undiagnosed women who have family histories of breast cancer.

Typically, Tamoxifen is prescribed to breast cancer patients for approximately five years. However, in a new study called “Atlas,” Tamoxifen was assigned to one group of breast cancer patients for the average five years and to another group of patients for an extended 10 years. The results of this study showed that the group taking Tamoxifen for five years had a 25.1 percent recurrence rate of cancer while those who took the drug for 10 years had a 21.4 percent recurrence rate.

Such a difference is highly significant, especially when viewed through a personal and realistic lens. Freshman chemistry major Kristen Flynn comments that, “If it is scientifically proven that taking Tamoxifen reduces the chances of breast cancer from returning, then diagnosed patients should invest in the extra five years of treatment. Those five years can save them a lifetime. My cousin was diagnosed with breast cancer a year ago,

so these advancements in medicine are the reasons why remission is possible.”

Breast cancer initially starts in the milk ducts of the breast, or in the lobes of the breast that produce milk. Further, breast cancer comes in two types. Invasive cancer spreads to other tissues besides the ducts and lobes, while noninvasive cancer remains in one type of tissue. The majority of breast cancers are susceptible to becoming tumors when in the presence of the hormone estrogen. These cancers are called estrogen-receptive positive cancers (ER-positive cancers) and Andrew Pollack of *The New York Times* reports that these cancers “account for about 65 percent of cases in premenopausal women.”

What makes Tamoxifen an optimal choice for treatment of estrogen-receptive positive cancers is that it blocks the effect of estrogen. This allows the drug to greatly reduce the chances of the breast cancer returning after surgery or remission. Tamoxifen also has the ability to shrink and treat ER-positive cancers prior to surgery, and, additionally, it can prevent the risk of cancer forming in undiagnosed women. Furthermore, this drug is easily distributed and taken orally as a pill.

The disadvantages of Tamoxifen are of course its side effects which possibly include hot flashes, mood swings, depression, weight gain, blood clots, and endometrial cancer.

Endometrial cancer forms in the uterus and is potentially very dangerous. However, this type of cancer is often diagnosed in its earliest stages, making it much easier to treat. Although the risk of developing endometrial cancer is 1.5 percent greater when taking Tamoxifen, Trevor J. Poweles of the Cancer Center London remarks that “overall, the benefits of extended Tamoxifen seemed to outweigh the risks substantially.”

Similarly, Dr. Dorothy Lobo, biology professor, said, “For some women with estrogen-receptor positive breast

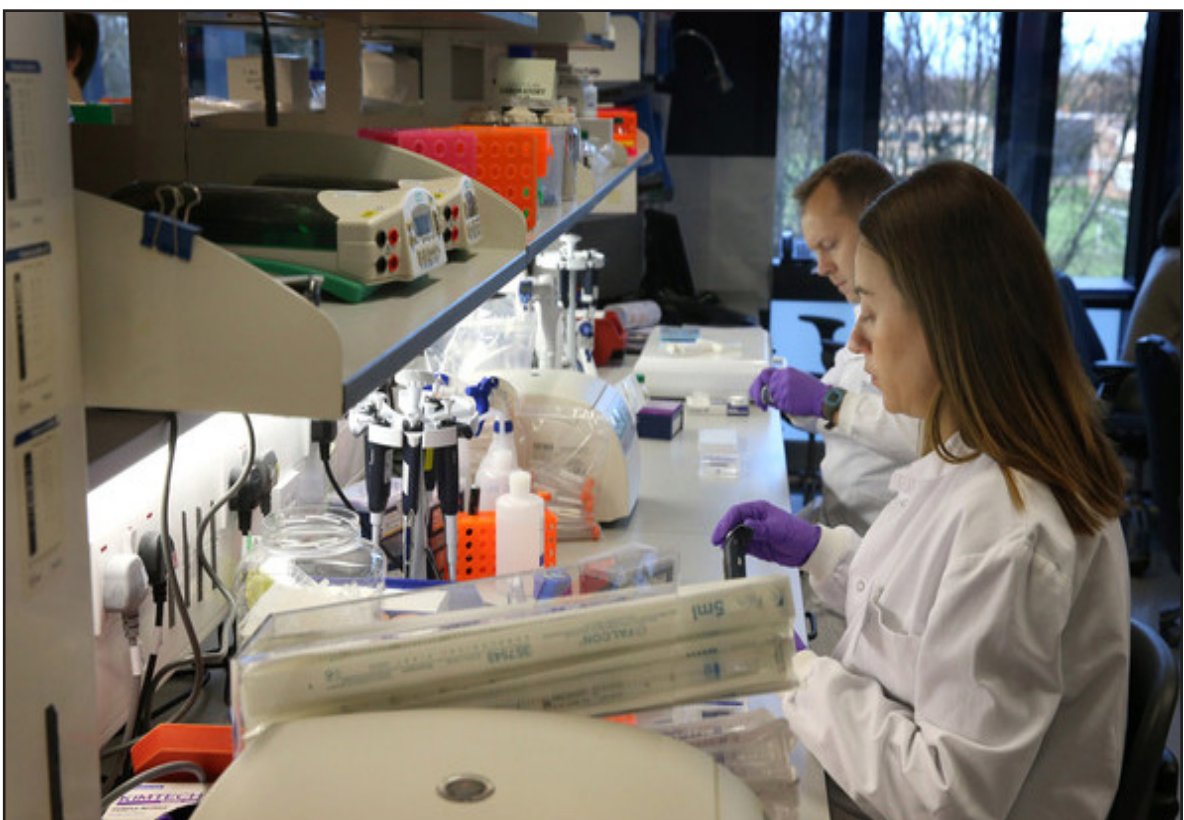


IMAGE TAKEN from zimbio.com

Oncologists study the drug Tamoxifen and how its structure allows for its efficient purpose of blocking breast cancer causing hormones.

cancer, the use of tamoxifen has made a tremendous impact on their treatment and has extended lives. Though it is not without side effects (including strokes), so for each patient, the potential benefit versus the risks for using tamoxifen would need to be considered,” said Lobo.

She also said, “So much is now known about the molecular make-up of cancers that specific treatments are tailored to individuals - genetic testing of the tumors can help doctors identify which patients would benefit best from the variety of drugs such as tamoxifen or other targeted therapies, including monoclonal antibodies against other receptors that are known to be involved in cancer progression. Even though this trial indicates that extending the treatment with tamoxifen may only help a small subset of patients, for these patients, it would give them more time to be with their loved ones, which is priceless.”

Also, to counter the hot flashes and depression caused by Tamoxifen, patients can take antidepressants. *The New York Times* mentions one such patient who follows this procedure, a 39 year old single mother living in Texas named Emily Behrend. Behrend has completed her prescribed five years of taking Tamoxifen and is continuing her use of the drug. She says “If it can keep the cancer away, I’m all for it.”

Freshman biology major Priyal Patel agrees and said, “Although the side effects of Tamoxifen can be disastrous, the long term benefits- not getting breast cancer again- definitely outweigh the cons and treatment should continue for a long period of time. For those women that are hesitant to a prolonged treatment, we can only hope that the medical field finds a safer alternative in the near future.”

Overall, the use of Tamoxifen evidently has overruling benefits as opposed to harms. Therefore, the practice of extending the distribution of the drug will continue as of now.

Additional effects after 10 years of taking Tamoxifen remain yet to be seen. However, the current use of this drug is helping to save thousands of lives and we have increasing hope for more treatments and even potential cures.

An RA’s Journey

WESLEY BROOKS
STAFF WRITER

In a residential student’s freshman, sophomore or junior year, he or she has the opportunity to apply for the position of Resident Assistant (RA).

An RA is someone who is in charge of a floor in a dormitory and acts as a mentor to the student community in which he or she lives in. This provides valuable experience to both students and the RA.

Their duties include planning programs, supervising closing periods for break and acting as peer mediator. “I was encouraged by my sister, who attends another institution, to apply for the position here at Monmouth,” said Nick Rossi, the head RA in Elmwood Hall. “It has also given me the chance to learn a lot about myself in the process as well.”

Dan Roman, also an RA in Elmwood, wanted to apply as a means of giving back to his former RA who was a major help during his freshman transition last year. “I became real close with my RA and I wanted to do something that would allow me to give back to people who were a big help to me,” said Roman. “I want others to know that they can be successful and are strongly encouraged to give back to the community.”

One of the major responsibilities of an RA is to plan both educational and social programs for their residents.

For freshman, these represent the S.H.A.D.O.W. program (Service, “Hawk Pride”, Academics,

Diversity, Occupation and Wellness) and can include a range of activities from pizza parties, going to basketball games or helping out charities by creating special holiday cards. A highlight is when food (particularly cookies) is offered as it attracts an abundant number of people to participate. With some exceptions, such as making Japanese Origami, programs must have at least ten participants to be considered official and all are encouraged to attend.

Building security is another important factor as RAs are assigned duty nights as coordinated with the rest of their building staff.

Prior to the start of each semester, all RAs go through an extensive training process that involves workshops such as conflict resolution and how to handle residents who are disruptive. There are also fun events built in such as a trip to Sandy Hook Beach for a day by the sea. This process lasts for two weeks in the fall semester and five days in the spring semester. This position is also great on a resume for anyone, but particularly those who want to become school teachers.

“People who have been an RA are better prepared for the unpredictabilities life throws at us,” said Mark Holfender, Director of Residence Life. “The training is long, but students end up having fun and learning a lot about themselves.”

Applications go out February 4, 2013 and are due on the 15. Interest meetings will be held again at the end of January and must be attended prior to applying.

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Cheer Team Ventures Into New Territory

MU Cheer Team to Compete on National Stage

DEENA HALUZA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The 2012-2013 cheerleading season is different from any other season they have had at the University for one main reason: MU Cheer will be competing in the UCA College Nationals on January 18-20, 2013, in Orlando, Florida at Walt Disney World Resorts. They will be competing against other Division I schools for the title of first place.

Courtney Ball, current coach of the cheer team, said, "Our girls work very hard to be enthusiastic and energetic during football and basketball season and competition is another avenue to demonstrate their dedication and skills. Collegiate teams from across the US come to compete at UCA Nationals because this is the most prestigious college cheerleading championship in the country."

The top teams that ranked in the top ten last year at the UCA College Nationals include: Indiana University, University of Memphis, Morehead State University, San Diego State University, University of Minnesota, Florida State University, University of South Florida, Western Kentucky University, Rutgers University and Temple University.

"With so many exceptional athletes from the University," Ball continued, "The cheerleaders have made it their mission to further advance our own team expectations." Last year, the team placed first in their premier



PHOTO COURTESY of Deena Haluza

MU Cheer will be competing in the UCA College Nationals in Orlando, Florida at Walt Disney World in January.

collegiate cheerleading competition at Rider University. The team created a goal to compete on a national level for the 2012-2013 season in order to raise the University to a new standard of

excellence in the competitive collegiate venue. "UCA Nationals will be on ESPN and I believe it will help to market Monmouth University as well as Monmouth Cheerleading," said Ball.

past seven years.

One of the team's captains, Johnna Malter, senior and psychology major, said, "I'm so proud of our team and how far we have come. The bond that we

Ball has been the cheerleading coach at the University for the past four years. Prior to this, she coached the Hunterdon Central High School cheer team for a year. For college, Ball attended Monmouth and cheered all four years. Besides her coaching experience, Ball also is an instructor, choreographer, judge, and head instructor for cheer camps all over the country, primarily in the northeast. She has also been working for the Universal Cheerleader's Association (UCA) for the

have formed as not only a team, but a family is the best thing I can ask for to finish off my last year as a cheerleader."

Krysten Rosamilia, junior and accounting major, added, "I have been on the team for the past three years. The bond that the team has really helped me to continue to love the sport as I always have growing up." Rosamilia continues, "I am very excited to compete in January with my team and hopefully make history for MU Cheer."

For anyone who is interested in trying out for the MU Cheer team, it is important to know that it is a big commitment. The season lasts from August-April, which leaves May-July for the team to train at home. Besides preparing for and cheering at football and basketball games, the team is heavily involved in community service that is integrated into the season as well as special events and promotions. The tryouts are usually the first weekend in May and lasts for two days.

During these tryouts, the potential cheerleaders are evaluated on gymnastics, stunting, dance, cheer, and overall spirit/crowd appeal. On average, the team has about 24 girls, but the team has been co-ed in the past. Open tryouts are in September after the first football game for the few spots that are still left open. For any additional information, contact Courtney Ball at cball@monmouth.edu or visit the University's website at gomuhawks.com.

Students Speak up for Activities

Megan McGowan of SAB Discusses Upcoming Plans

ERIN BUKOWSKI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Office of Student Activities and Student Center Operations, and the Student Activities Board have begun creating their annual survey in hopes to receive direct feedback from students for upcoming events of their choice.

The survey is 20 questions that both the Office of Student Activities and Student Center Operations, as well as the Student Activities Board, use to measure student satisfaction, participation and interest. The survey asks a set of the same questions yearly, but will also highlight a specific area of interest to learn more about an explicit area of programming.

Megan McGowan, Assistant Director of Student Activities and Student Center Operations, works directly with composing this survey. She has created the survey while incorporating ideas from the Student Activities Board. This year, the Student Government Association was also invited to participate and highlight some questions about the University's annual Springfest.

McGowan said, "Last year we highlighted what type of genres of music students wanted to hear. This year we will be working with the leadership of the Student Government Association to learn more about what students want from the Springfest entertainment."

McGowan added, "Although when we ask students about specific artists on the survey, we can't always bring that specific act to a campus, due to the artist availability or schedule, it

will give us a broad idea of what the student body is looking for. We will include some write-in areas on the survey but because we are working with a budget and price range when booking campus events, we can't always book everything the students respond with."

The survey is sent out directly after the fall semester comes to a conclusion. This is done so that the Student Activities Board can utilize the results to finish up any programming ideas for the upcoming spring semester.

They are then able to use the results

need to be adjusted so that it works for campus, but the committee takes all responses into account, according to McGowan.

Students this past year have asked directly about possible bus trips. Based on the highest response of what type of bus trip students would like to attend, such as Broadway plays, sporting events, or museum visits; the highest student response was a Broadway show. The committee then arranged for a trip to see Spiderman on Broadway this February.

The more engaged students are with the survey, the more likely trips will be planned to fit their specific interest, which they will be able to take full advantage of.

McGowan further explains, "Last year, the survey team also gauged the amount of students who would pay \$250 for a weekend trip to Boston. Based on the responses, they felt confident in offering the fall break trip to Salem and Boston, which was a huge success. The trip also had great feedback from those who attended."

"These two questions were important to take into consideration because 'travel' and 'tour' was the highest rated category that students stated they wanted to see more of. We also ask students what past events they most enjoyed so we had an idea of what we should or should not bring back to campus," said McGowan.

Every student will be emailed the link to take the survey. The survey will be sent out on the last day of classes. Keep a look out in your email and do not miss out on getting involved with the planning of events here at the University.

"This year we will be working with SGA to learn more about what students want from the Springfest entertainment."

MEGAN MCGOWAN
Assistant Director of Student Activities

to decide on what talent to book when they attend the National Association for Campus Activities (NACA). NACA is an annual convention that allows colleges to preview talent that is touring college campuses that year and work with agents to get convention pricing on site.

By attending this convention, the Student Activities Board is able to book high-level talent at a discounted rate and work with other area colleges to coordinate acts playing in the same area at the same time, as well as being able to share travel costs between various schools.

By participating and completing this survey, students have the option to have their opinions heard as well as a say in what goes on on-campus. No suggestion for an event is too big for brainstorming. Although, it might

Grab a Slice!

Outdoors Club Hosts Fundraiser

STEPHANIE RAMADAN
STAFF WRITER

The Outdoors Club held an all-you-can-eat event at Zachary's Pizza in West Long Branch to raise money for their organization on Tuesday, December 4.

The tickets were 12 dollars and could be bought in advance or at the door. Two dollars went to the Outdoors Club and ten dollars went to Zachary's. It was buffet style and they served plain, sausage and pepper, and pepperoni pizzas.

The Outdoors Club holds events both inside and outside of the University, depending on how many people get involved. The University splits the cost with the club if the events are held on campus.

Sometimes, if they are expecting a lot of people they will need to request a second bus to transport everyone. This calls for special funding.

Some of the recent events they have held are kayaking, zip lining, and horseback riding. Their events range from day trips to weekend trips.

President of the Outdoors Club Greg Cenicola, senior, said, "A typical event usually brings in 42-50 people."

They advertised for the event through Facebook and the clubs and organizations page on eCampus.

Professor William Reynolds is the advisor for the Outdoors Club. "We have this group on eCampus, so the people who want to know about the event can check it and we don't have to send e-mails out through the University," said Reynolds.

A recent graduate from the University, Joy Marcus, saw the

advertisements for the event and came out to see a former professor. "I know Professor Reynolds and I wanted to come and see him and support the Outdoors Club," said Marcus.

It was not mandatory for the members of the Outdoors Club to attend, but most of them did to support the organization.

Rob Vigilante junior, marketing major, is not part of the club, but his fraternity brothers are. "I came to support my brothers and I thought it was a great deal," said Vigilante.

The Outdoors Club started this event last year. They are hoping to make it happen once every semester.

Last year they had a great turnout for the event, but not as many people came out this time. "We aren't expecting as much of a turnout as last year, not a lot of people are in the right mindset since the hurricane," said Reynolds.

Last year the all-you-can-eat pizza event raised 150 dollars for the Outdoors Club. This year 52 people came and they raised 104 dollars, two dollars a person. The Outdoors Club members were happy with this turnout.

Zachary's was very accommodating to the Outdoors Club. "Last year they made a special pie because one of the guests was lactose," said Cenicola.

There were many happy campers at the end of the night because of the pizza. "The pizza is exceptional, if you like thin crust," said Reynolds.

Rachel Fox, sophomore English and education major, is one of those who enjoys Zachary's pizza. "It is really delicious, the crust is really thin and it is really cheesy," said Fox.

Keep Calm and... Make a T-Shirt

Student Activities Board Works to Relieve Stress in a Stress Filled Time

ERIN BUKOWSKI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Student Activities Board held the “Keep Calm...” event this past Wednesday, December 5, to provide some stress-free entertainment for students.

The “Keep Calm...” event took place in the Student Center in hopes of involving both commuter and residential students. The event consisted of students coming out and picking his or her favorite “Keep Calm and...” line and putting it onto a t-shirt. Participants chose their own personal saying and what colors they were going to use in order to personalize their own saying even further. Once they had their idea, it was printed onto a shirt that the student could take home within minutes.

The SAB brings a variety of entertainment to the University ranging from souvenirs that students can bring home to inflatable rides. Make-your-own items seem to be popular among University students, with make your own hats and Frisbees selling out at Springfest, another SAB event.

Megan McGowan, Assistant Director of Student Activities and Student Center Operations, helped supervise this event. McGowan elaborates on the importance of incorporating commuter students into campus life here at the University. She further explains, “SAB tries to do some pop up programming that let’s students stop by between classes during the day, such as the Keep Calm t-shirt event. This is to reach out to students, such

as commuters, who might not be on campus for evening or weekend programming and encourage them to come back for what might be going on around campus when classes are not in session.” Not only did this involve residential students passing throughout the Student Center, but also commuter students who were on campus that day; which was their most important goal.

Events brought to the University by the Student Activities Board are always free. Events such as this provide a nice break in the hectic day in the life of a student to come out and make something enjoyable. Students took special advantage of this specific event due to the high stress of finals week approaching. SAB attempted to provide some distraction to all students by allowing them to create something amusing and take some time for them. Tarryn Cortese, senior, said, “Due to the stress of finals, I was not even aware of any of the events happening on campus. I was passing through the Student Center and happened to notice the huge line of students and faculty leading towards the other side of the Student Center. When I walked straight to the front to see what all the hype was about, I realized how adorable the t-shirt idea was! I love the ‘Keep Calm’ quote, which is presently a huge trend.”

Victoria Day, sophomore and member of the Student Activities Board, explained, “The best part about the event was the turn out and the feedback we got from students. Once the t-shirts came out of the press, student’s eyes lit up! They all loved the ‘Keep Calm’

idea, and it tied into the idea of keeping calm during the final weeks of the semester.” As current novelty chair on Student Activities Board, Day said, “People loved it! It was definitely a success. In turn, that’s what makes me happy. As the current novelty chair on Student Activities Board, I couldn’t be happier!”

Casey Inguagiato, another member of SAB, was extremely proud and satisfied with the outcome of the “Keep Calm...” event. Inguagiato states, “The event’s purpose was to ease the minds of each student in preparation for finals. We think it went over really well being that the turnout of people was so great. Hopefully we will do something like this again in the future.”

The achievement of the event was apparent as countless students created their own t-shirt, while also taking some time for some fun during the stress of finals week. Cortese said, “I loved the idea that we could pick which saying and colors we all wanted indi-



PHOTO COURTESY OF Erin Bukowski

The Student Activities Board worked off the trending one liner, “Keep calm and carry on,” allowing students to incorporate their own phrases on why they should keep calm.

vidually. I decided that I needed to take a twenty-minute break from the craziness of school and have some fun and wait on line to create my own souvenir while I

could! As a senior, I’m really going to miss the bond of students helping each other during stressful times such as this. We really are a community.”

New Sorority to Join Greek-Life

ALEXIS DECARVALHO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Over nine million college students across the nation are participating in some form of Greek life. Whether the purpose of joining the Greek community is to make friends, build resumes or even attend parties, college students from state to state are looking to better their college experience.

With hopes of incorporating a thriving chapter at the University and expanding the philosophy of their founders, the international women’s fraternity Alpha Omicron Pi (AOII) will be recruiting women on campus in the spring of 2013.

The women’s fraternity, often referenced today as a sorority, was created in 1897 at Barnard College. The organization, founded on sisterhood and service, is part of the National Panhellenic Council (NPC), and has expanded to 193 collegiate chapters and 320 alumnae chapters since its creation.

The University’s interest in expanding Greek life has come from the rise in numbers for recruitment and overall Greek interest in these past few years. Men’s social fraternity, Phi Kappa Psi, was re-chartered in 2010, and the professional business fraternity, Alpha Kappa Psi, was chartered in 2011.

The vote to open for the creation of a new chapter was approved and passed on to the NPC. The NPC, also known as the governing body of women’s Greek organizations, released an Extension Bulletin to the twenty-six members. After viewing the University’s proposal, AOII was interested in establishing a chapter based on a number of factors such as alumni and

university support, the size of the proposed colony, and whether the values of the campus aligned with the values of their organization.

Kara Mantooth, Director of Public Relations and Extension for AOII, has been spearheading the movement thus far on campus. Mantooth, who has been working for the organization since March, has been spreading word of the women’s fraternity via email, social media websites, and information sessions.

Among others, AOII emphasizes the objects of character, dignity, scholarship, and college loyalty. The women’s fraternity works to teach their members how to expand and utilize these characteristics both inside and outside the organization in order to benefit the community as a whole. As for service, Mantooth explains, “It expands beyond the sisterhood. Service is more than volunteering. It’s service to others, being a good citizen, and being a good friend.”

For interested students, Mantooth says AOII is looking for females who are “leaders, self-starters, motivated, and passionate about Monmouth.”

“The Greek community has been extremely supportive and nice.” Both current Greek members and interested students have stopped by table events just to introduce themselves or say hi.

Sophomore Marcie Aviva Licker says she is definitely going to do some research on Alpha Omicron Pi in order to decide whether or not to get involved. To Licker, “Greek life seems fun.” As an only-child, the idea of sisters “sounds wonderful.”

Mantooth encourages students to look into what Greek life is about in order to decide whether

it is the right choice for them. “The purpose of fraternities and sororities is to promote and better the individual. Brotherhood and sisterhood are different than any type of friendship you will have,” Mantooth said.

“Greek life gives you life experience as well as good friends that act as a support system. You also learn skills and qualities that help you in your personal and professional life,” said Junior Klaudia Szabat, brother of the professional business fraternity Alpha Kappa Psi.

“The common stereotypes of Greek life are really misunderstood. Greek life is an awesome way to get involved in campus life as well as grow as an individual,” Szabat added.

At the beginning of the spring semester, AOII will have two visiting consultants who work for the fraternity that will table, pass things out on campus, and provide information sessions. At least two weeks prior to the colonization process, women will be able to register for individual or group appointments. Although unsure of an exact member, Manthooth estimates a possible number of 65 women for recruitment based on the average chapter recruiting size.

With the addition of AOII to the University’s Greek community, Mantooth hopes the organization will be a thriving, successful, and inclusive chapter that will be able to “become a part of the National Panhellenic Conference and merge into Greek life immediately.” An objective of AOII this spring semester is to “bring new, fresh ideas” and “make a difference in the Greek and campus community.”

Pennies From Heaven

STEPHANIE RAMADAN
STAFF WRITER

There are six sororities on campus here at the University and each have their own philanthropy which they hold events to fund-raise for.

Phi Sigma Sigma’s philanthropy is the National Kidney Foundation. To raise money for this, they hold two big events throughout the year.

The first one is Monmouth Idol. It is held in the fall semester; tickets are five dollars in advance and seven at the door. Any student is eligible to participate if they would like to. There are prizes given to first, second, and third place and the proceeds go to The National Kidney Foundation.

The other event they have is the pancake breakfast, held in the spring semester and the tickets are also five dollars. The sisters of Phi Sigma Sigma make pancakes, and it is an all you can eat event. This event takes place in the basement of Spruce Hall, and the proceeds go to The National Kidney Foundation.

Laura Trachtenberg, senior, is the Archon of Phi Sigma Sigma. “I think it was a very unfortunate circumstance for the family who started the foundation, but it has turned into a wonderful opportunity to raise money for people who need it,” said Trachtenberg.

Fundraising is something that every Greek organization holds close to their hearts. On Wednesday, December 12, Phi Sigma Sigma will be fundraising for a different organization, Pennies From Heaven – Caleb’s Foundation.

One of the sisters of Phi Sigma Sigma, Elena Pellarin, senior,

holds this foundation close to her heart. “A good friend of mine who had lost her baby to cancer started it. I have been wanting to help her for a while but was not sure how to. Her family has been going through difficult times lately so I wanted to do something to raise her spirits and remind her that people care,” said Pellarin.

The foundation raises money for families with critically ill children. Pellarin has been sending around collection jars in classes as well as to other Greek organizations to spread awareness for the foundation and raise money for it.

Every person that donates a dollar or more will be given a cut out of an angel for them to write their names on and tape onto a big board. At the end of the day, the board will be covered with angels that will be given to the mother who lost her baby. All of the donations will also be given to her to help with her foundation.

Madeline Diaz, junior, is also a sister of Phi Sigma Sigma and will be taking the position of Vice Archon starting next semester. “I am definitely very excited about this event. Although it is the first time we are hosting something like this it is definitely for a very good cause. It feels great to be helping out these unfortunate families by involving the whole Monmouth University community as well,” said Diaz.

Phi Sigma Sigma will be collecting donations in the Student Center from 11:00 am to 4:30 pm on Wednesday, December 12. All donations are welcome. To learn more about Caleb’s Foundation, check out their website: <http://www.calebspennies.org/>.

**NBS
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DECEMBER
5th and 12th**

Cost: \$5 per photo

**11:00 AM
TO
2:30 PM**

PLANGERE CENTER LOBBY

Horoscopes

To get the advantage, check the week rating:
10 is the easiest, 0 the most challenging.

♈ Aries • (Mar. 21 - April 19) - This week is an 8
The more that you invest this week the more you shall receive in return. By carefully planning where your time is going and by thinking ahead of the others you will be productive to the max. As a result a few new responsibilities might arise for you to take.

♉ Taurus • (April 20 - May 20) - This week is an 6
Go over that paperwork very carefully this week, you don't want anything important falling in-between the cracks. You do have a real productive mindset going and listening is going to be key for that skill to be utilized effectively. Consider your plans, and then move on quickly to get the most satisfying ending.

♊ Gemini • (May 21 - June 21) - This week is an 8
Times are tough now, but take a chance and tackle that challenging assignment. Remember that just because something is difficult does not mean that several smaller, less challenging tasks should be obtained instead. However do not overwhelm yourself with too much in these trying times.

♋ Cancer • (June 22 - July 22) - This week is a 7
An amazing development is in the works for you. Although there are several meetings going on that could conflict with what you currently have occurring, remember to keep you sight on where the future will place you; that is going to be where you will end up after all.

♌ Leo • (July 23- Aug. 22) - This week is a 9
You're about to get some brilliant insight about you current happenings. Make your move when the time comes, and relax when it doesn't come just yet. Do not spend your energy worrying about any negative events that might roll around; stay focused on the positive and all will be well.

♍ Virgo • (Aug 23 - Sept. 22) - This week is a 9
Mistakes are a part of the learning process, so do not fret. These could always lead you to a special surprise, or an unusual task perhaps, that you might not have been exposed to before. Save yourself the trouble and don't look too hard into how you came to these moments; instead savor the moment fully.

♎ Libra • (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23) - This week is an 8
Perhaps you should look into an upgrade in your technology. And there is no better time than now with these great shopping deals! You'll love the fact that you are getting a little something for yourself, and along the way you might just find the perfect gift for that special someone!

♏ Scorpio • (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) - This week is a 7
The time of rewards has come your way! A beneficial result is about to show up and you've really earned it. Do not let your good fortunes cloud your vision though. Respect and appreciate people around you for all that they are worth, if not you will be celebrating by yourself.

♐ Sagittarius • (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) -This week is a 9
Express your affections at work in words that are easy to understand. Provide support for the person in your life who might need it most and you will feel accomplished, despite the sullen atmosphere

♑ Capricorn • (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) - This week is a 6
It is a period of intuition and musing for you. Some of your theories succeed, as you have suspected, but there is still much to learn. Someone can teach you what you need to know, but don't get picky over the details; simply appreciate that they are helping you out.

♒ Aquarius • (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18) - This week is an 8
Get organized to avoid the frenzy of the end-of-the-year. Reassess those expenses, put more into your savings, and gather up all of the perks that come with it. As a result your financial expertise is going to attract some positive attention.

♓ Pisces • (Feb. 19 - Mar. 20) - This week is an 8
You are looking good and feeling good! There is an important question that you need to answer though and you might have to give something up. Listen to your inner voice and you can do no wrong. The time to launch that decision is fast approaching..

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“Misguided Understandings” by Alyssa Gray



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“The Commando Chronicles” by Alyssa Gray



a That Loud comix #3

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Students Sport Their Colors on Campus

BRETT BODNER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

College is a time for people to discover themselves. They put significant amounts of time into classes, socializing with friends, and possibly building a resume to help find a job following graduation. In addition to all of this, some could even make the argument that the college years are the peak of ones sports fandom.

People decorate their dorms and bedrooms with posters, banners, and other memorabilia of their favorite sports teams. On any given day, one can see students walking around campus supporting their teams by wearing a jersey, t-shirt, sweatshirt, jacket, etc.

“I think it might be the time to be most passionate about my favorite sports teams,” said junior Kyle Evans. “I’m young and don’t have things to worry about like a real job or raising a family.”

Not only is this a reason why people are passionate about sports at this age, but there is also the idea of sports

be more into it now than ever because of the numerous different rivalries teams have with the New York/Metropolitan area,” said junior Gregg Cambareri.

A few of these rivalries, he notes, are New York teams versus Boston teams and New York versus Philadelphia.

University Alumnus Kevin Sanders, who was raised as a die-hard fan of Philadelphia sports, said that despite dealing with his fair share of heckling from New York fans, he never let it stop him from rooting for his teams. “We love to dish out our share of trash talk, and Philly fans never let anyone [New York and Boston fans] stop us from doing what we do best, which is being the best fans in the country,” said Sanders.

This idea of rivalry and rooting for sports teams is something that has become a part of the American culture. Many people choose to watch games with their friends or family either in person or on television.

Sophomore Kyle Walter has been watching New York Jets games with



PHOTO COURTESY of MU Photography

The Monmouth Mob shows school spirit and cheers on the Hawks in an early-season game at the MAC.

“I think it might be the time to be most passionate about my favorite sports teams. I’m young and don’t have things to worry about like a real job or raising a family.”

KYLE EVANS
Junior

rivalries, which could make things even more interesting.

“I think most people my age will

his family all of his life and they are currently season ticket holders for the team as well. “Me and my brother

love going to Jets games and following the team,” said Walter. “The Jets have kind of become a part of our lives.”

Going to games is not the only way for people to get together to watch games. Many people get together with friends and family and sit around TV sets. Cambareri said he likes to watch games in the comfort of his own home or go out and watch the game at a sports bar like Buffalo Wild Wings. Evans added that if he was not in attendance for the game, he chooses to watch games and cheer on his teams from the comfort of his room.

“I’m always supporting my teams

because I have a passion for it and it’s been passed down to me through family tradition,” said Evans

This type of passion is not only seen by students for the professional teams they support, but also for their respective college teams, which can be seen right here on campus through students cheering on MU athletics.

Junior and Monmouth Mob member Ray Bogan attends most of the home basketball games because he loves the school, sports, and the chance to show his pride. “I see it as a great way for Monmouth students to come together and form bonds and friendships,” said Bogan. “When in college you’re always looking to

make friends and there isn’t anything better to bond over than your mutual love for sports and Monmouth.”

Whether it is cheering on your own respective school or professional team, Cambareri said being a sports fan at this age is something many people should participate in.

“Everyone should root for a team because the highs and lows you experience are truly unique,” Cambareri said.

Before your time at the University is up, continue to cheer on whatever team you choose to root for. Who knows, maybe you’ll get the opportunity to skip class for a championship victory parade.

Hawks’ Frazier Snubbed From All-NEC Teams

ED MORLOCK
SPORTS EDITOR

Congratulations to the Hawks, who were selected by Northeast Conference (NEC) coaches to be members of the All-NEC teams. Tight end Tyler George, guard Mike Hunchak and linebacker Dan Sullivan were all voted to the First Team All-NEC. Wide receiver Tristan Roberts, guard Dino Molina and defensive lineman Chris Luma were each named to the Second Team All-NEC.

One notable name was missing: fifth-year senior quarterback Kyle Frazier.

The two quarterbacks chosen ahead of Frazier were Wagner’s Nick Doscher and Duquesne’s Sean Patterson.

Usually passing yards, passing touchdowns, interceptions and completion percentage are a good way to measure a quarterback’s play.

Doscher threw for 1,669 yards, 13 touchdowns, one interception and completed 54.5% of his passes. His touchdown-to-inter-

Patterson to make one of the All-NEC teams. Ten interceptions isn’t bad, but isn’t great either. A completion percentage of 58.1 is an improvement over Doscher, but still is not top of the line.

Now, lets take a look at MU’s man under center. Frazier threw for 2,431 yards, 17 touchdowns, 10 interceptions and a completion percentage of 67.4.

Of the four main categories, Frazier has thrown for the most yards, tied with Patterson for most touchdowns and has far and away the best completion percentage.

Another way to judge quarterbacks is by their team’s success. Advantage here goes to Doscher. Wagner won the conference, going 7-1 against NEC foes. Frazier placed the Hawks third, going 4-3 in the conference. Duquesne and Patterson went 3-5 in the conference and finished sixth.

In head-to-head matchups, Frazier has the most impressive resume. He carried the Hawks into Staten Island to defeat Wagner 38-17. Less than two



PHOTO COURTESY of MU Photography

Fifth-year senior quarterback Kyle Frazier was not selected to either All-NEC team following the 2012 season, despite putting up numbers that compare favorably to others in the league.

Frazier was named NEC Offensive Player of the Week three times. He won on September 10, September 24 and October 15. No one else in the conference won the award three times.

ception ratio is very impressive. However, he completed just over half of his passes. That’s the best quarterback in the NEC? Ehh... Patterson amassed 2,359 yards, 17 touchdowns, 10 picks and completed 58.1% of his throws. The yardage and touchdowns make a strong case for

months later, he took the Blue and White to Pittsburgh and defeated Duquesne 28-27. Apparently, beating these two quarterbacks on their home fields was not enough to sway voters in Frazier’s favor. Wagner defeated Duquesne 23-17 in the second week of the season.

So lets take a quick overview at what we have so far. Among the three, Frazier’s team was second best, but defeated both of the other two at their home field. The Hawks’ quarterback threw for the most yardage, touchdowns and the highest completion percentage by a landslide. Frazier is tied for second in passing interceptions.

The three quarterbacks are very similar with their rushing stats. Doscher averaged 44.1 yards per game with five touchdowns. Duquesne’s Patterson averaged 19.6 yards per game and scored five touchdowns. Frazier ran for 23.1 yards a game and scored three touchdowns.

Every week during the season, an NEC Offensive Player of the Week is selected. Doscher won

the award twice for Wagner. He won it on October 1 and November 5.

Patterson claimed the title once, for the week of October 22.

Frazier was named NEC Offensive Player of the Week three times. He won on September 10, September 24 and October 15. No one else in the conference won the award three times.

Put all of the numbers together and this is what it boils down to: Doscher totaled 2,198 yards, 18 touchdowns, one interception and a 54.5 completion percentage. His team finished first in the conference and he went 1-1 against the other top quarterbacks. He was named NEC Offensive Player of the Week twice.

Patterson totaled 2,575 yards, 22 touchdowns, 10 interceptions

and a 58.1 completion percentage. His team finished sixth in the conference and he went 0-2 against the other top quarterbacks. He was named NEC Offensive Player of the Week once.

Frazier totaled 2,662 yards, 20 touchdowns, 10 interceptions and a 67.4 completion percentage.

His team finished third in the conference and he went 2-0 against the other top quarterbacks. He was named NEC Offensive Player of the Week three times.

The stats are right in front of you, and you can make the decision.

It’s hard to believe that the NEC coaches did not see Kyle Frazier as one of the best two quarterbacks in the conference.

Men's Basketball Loses to Navy and Syracuse

Head Coach King Rice Ejected From Navy Game and Suspended Against Syracuse

MAGGIE ZELINKA
LIFESTYLES EDITOR

The men's basketball team fell far from the pedestal of glory this past week as they endured a tough 85-66 loss against Navy and a 108-56 loss to the Syracuse Orange.

Head coach King Rice was ejected from the Navy game after receiving his second technical foul and criticized the officials in the post-game press conference, resulting in a suspension for the Syracuse game.

The last time MU played Navy was almost a year ago, when the Hawks won 69-67. This time, looking for redemption and a chance to reach .500, Navy gained the early lead.

Within the first seven minutes of play, Navy was ahead by seven points with a score of 16-9.

The Hawks gained their first lead with 12:30 left in the half when senior forward Stephen Spinella dunked the ball to take a 20-19 lead. This basket sparked MU as they were able to dominate the rest of the half. Within the last ten minutes of play, both freshman guard Christian White, Spinella and sophomore guard Andrew Nicholas each sank a three pointer giving the Hawks a 37-32 lead at half.

Winning the first half battle was largely due to their persistent defense. Sophomore Max DiLeo said, "They got some fast breaks and we were trying to get back," DiLeo said. "Fortunately, our teammates bought each other enough time so one of us could get back to block."

MU entered the second half strong as they furthered their lead

lead to three at 50-47. Twenty-five seconds after Waite's basket, the Hawks found themselves behind Navy at 51-50.

Navy then sank another shot, bringing the game to 53-50. MU was able to tie the game up with a three point shot from Nicholas forcing the scoreboard to read 53-53; this would be the last time the Hawks were close to their opponent.

In the blink of an eye, Navy seized the game. Taking their first ten point lead as the clock read 8:39, Knorr took over the court.

MU quickly attempted to cut their lead by two, but Navy fought back and with 6:35 left in the game, the Hawks were still losing by ten points at 67-57. A questionable call was made by head official Brian Dorsey with 6:23 left in the game.

A single minute had passed since the call was made and MU let their deficit increase to a 16 point margin of 75-59.

By the one minute warning, the Hawk's aspirations of victory was crushed by a 19 point gap. Navy scored the last basket of the game with 21 seconds left, securing the final score at 85-66.

As Rice reflected upon the game, he was left with nothing but sadness and fury that he, not his team, did not perform to the fullest ability.

"We got totally embarrassed by the Navy team," Rice said. "The better team won tonight. It is my fault that I did not have our team ready to play to the level that they needed to be ready to play. I should have done a better job of coaching them through-



PHOTO COURTESY of MU Photography

Sophomore guard Andrew Nicholas scored 20 points and dished out five assists in the Hawks two losses last week to Navy and Syracuse.

nine of those coming from 3 pointers alone.

Spinella also played very well as he was on the court for a total of 21 minutes while having a career high three assists and 16 points in the game.

Another noteworthy name was senior forward Marcus Ware. Ware played for a total 24 minutes in which he was able to accumulate 13 points.

Although a loss will take its toll on the team, Spinella believes they can overcome this difficult ending against Navy.

"A loss is going to hurt you one way or another," Spinella said. "We are good at bouncing back, we have shown that. From here on out, we just have to know what it feels like to lose like tonight. We cannot settle. I think that is what we did coming into this game which is uncalled for."

With the loss against Navy, MU's record stood at 5-4.

Their next game was Saturday against the fourth best basketball team in the nation, Syracuse. Assistant coach Rick Callahan assumed the head coach position for one night due to Rice's suspension.

Waite led the team at the Carrier Dome on Saturday night with ten points accompanied by eight rebounds while teammate Gary Cox notched nine points for the Hawks. Khalil Brown's eight points proved a season high.

Nicholas helped MU gain an early 5-4 lead over the Orange as he scored all five points. The Orange were quick to retaliate as they sank two three-pointers making it a 10-5 game.

MU scored the next six points in order to regain the lead at 11-10. With 10:32 showing, the game stood at an even 19-19.

At 9:35, the scoreboard showed 24-21 but Syracuse quickly captivated the game as they were able

to score 25 points in the next seven minutes while MU could only connect with the hoop twice.

By half, the Hawks were down 57-28. As the first three minutes passed in the second half, Syracuse increased their lead by 20 with the scoreboard showing 70-30.

The rest of the half was dominated by the Orange as they increased the point gap to 57 with 2:55 remaining in the game. The final score posted 108-56 in Syracuse's favor.

With this win, Syracuse remains fourth best in the nation as well as continuing their 28-game home winning streak and their undefeated 8-0 season.

With this loss, the Hawks come to an even 5-5 record.

Next, MU heads to the Comcast Center this Wednesday night to face the 8-1 University of Maryland Terrapins.

They host Villanova at the MAC on December 22 at 7 pm.

"I should have done a better job of coaching them throughout the day. When the head coach doesn't get it done, then the team gets embarrassed 85-66,"

KING RICE
Head Coach

37-32 within the first 30 seconds of play, but came close to losing their lead within seven minutes of play as Navy's star Kendall Knorr made his free throws.

Senior forward Ed Waite gave MU come comfort room as he pushed the

out the day. When the head coach doesn't get it done, then the team gets embarrassed 85-66."

While the overall team played poorly, personal accomplishments were achieved. Nicholas played for 32 minutes while posting 15 points,

Outlook's Weekly NFL Picks - Week 10

	Away	New York Giants	Carolina Panthers	Denver Broncos	Indianapolis Colts	Green Bay Packers	Kansas City Chiefs	San Francisco 49ers	New York Jets
	Home	Atlanta Falcons	San Diego Chargers	Baltimore Ravens	Houston Texans	Chicago Bears	Oakland Raiders	New England Patriots	Tennessee Titans
Ed (4-4)(40-32)									
Clutter (5-3)(40-32)									
Gavin (5-3)(46-26)									
WMCX Sports Director Gary Kowal (Greg Cenicola 3-5)									

Hoyas Top the Hawks 61-48

RYAN CLUTTER
STAFF WRITER

In the final game of the fall semester, the women’s basketball team fell 61-48 to the Georgetown Hoyas on December 4. Georgetown has been in and out of the Associated Press Top 25 this season. Alysha Womack led the Hawks with 14 points while Georgetown’s Sugar Rodgers led all scorers with 30 points.

Georgetown was able to get off to a 6-0 lead before the Hawks stormed back on a 15-4 run to take the lead behind three 3-point plays. Womack and Carly Thibault connected from long range and Sara English converted a free throw after being fouled on a layup.

Scoring went back and forth for the duration of the first half, and the Hoyas took a 23-22 lead into the break.

The defensive effort for the Hawks allowed them to keep the game within reach. Chevannah Paalvast was able to get herself in good position on the boards, grabbing six rebounds and blocking three shots in the first half. Abby Martin played tight, quality defense the entire game, forcing three of the team’s seven steals. English led the team with six blocks, three in each half.

“I thought Abby (Martin), Sara (English), and DD (Danica Dragicevic) were a great threesome in there,” said Coach Jenny Palmateer. “When those guards got the ball inside and we were able to get over there and help, Sara’s tough to shoot over and DD is physical enough to be able to bang with the big girls. So I thought the three of them in particular did a really good job battling on the inside.”

Offensively, the Hawks were pressured from the get go as the Hoyas were relentless on defense, forcing 34 MU turnovers, 17 in the first half. Facing a 1-2-2 zone press with a double team and trap on the ball, the Hawks relied on the cross court pass to get away from the pressure, which resulted in 17 Georgetown interceptions.

“It was very difficult,” said Womack. “A lot of times when you’re in



PHOTO COURTESY of MU Photography
Alysha Womack led the Hawks in scoring against Georgetown with 14 points.

the trap you feel like you can’t go anywhere. Sometimes we got lucky and got out of it but most of the time, personally, I felt like I couldn’t go anywhere and it just resulted in turnovers. They were aggressive.”

“They’re a team that forces 28 plus turnovers a game, we knew that they were going to be trapping the entire game, whether it was full court, half court, three quarter court, it didn’t matter,” said Palmateer. “They’ll do it for the whole

“The things that are most important to us as a team are defense and rebounding and we took care of those two areas,” said Coach Palmateer. “This was probably one of our more complete defensive efforts in the last two or three games.”

The Hawks pulled within two with 7:15 remaining to make it a 45-43 game, but the Hoyas scored 16 of the games final 21 points to seal the victory.

Georgetown’s All-American Sugar Rodgers was held to just 5 points on 2-11 shooting in the first half, though she took over the game in the second half, dropping 25 points on 7-12 from the floor. Rodgers exceeded 2,000 career points in the first half, a milestone adding to her legacy of the program’s leading scorer.

“We’re a team that fights,” said Womack. “We’re going to fight through adversity. Whenever we stay unified things kind of fall into place. As long as we stay together, we can take our conference to a whole ‘nother level.”

MU takes the court next on Saturday, December 22, when they host Delaware at 3 pm in the MAC.

“We just need to improve our fundamentals,” said Coach Palmateer. “When we moved the ball and got into the right spots, we got some nice looks. We just couldn’t knock them down today. I really feel like down the road, we’re going to knock those down.”

possession. A lot of presses you face you get it [the ball] over half court and they back off. Georgetown stays in it. They trap the entire possession.”

Despite the poor offensive outing, where the Hawks shot 40 percent (18-45) from the floor, the Blue and White held the Hoyas to just 11 fast break points and 8 second chance points, an area Coach Palmateer said her team did a phenomenal job with. The turnovers ended up killing MU’s chances as Georgetown scored 30 points off of the 37 turnovers. The Hawks out rebounded the Hoyas 38-32 and were able to block 11 shots.

JENNY PALMATEER
Head Coach

“A lot of presses you face you get it [the ball] over half court and they back off. Georgetown stays in it. They trap the entire possession.”

Track & Field Shines at Princeton

MAGGIE ZELINKA
LIFESTYLES EDITOR

Coming off a strong performance in the MAC’s Fourth Annual Classic, the track & field team traveled to Princeton this past Sunday with their heads held high for two reasons.

Errol Jeffrey was named the NEC Men’s Field Athlete of the Week because he was one out of three male throwers in the entire nation to exceed 57 feet in Track & Field’s opening weekend. “Jeffrey the Giant” threw for a total of 17.41 meters (57’ 1.5”). When asked if all this recognition adds to the pressure of success, Jeffrey said. “I do not feel any extra pressure to perform at that same or a higher level in this week’s Princeton meet because I know that I am capable of performing at a higher level based on what I see at practice and what I threw last year.”

The Princeton New Year Invitational consisted of fourteen total teams. Both the men and the women prevailed in nearly every competition they faced.

The men’s achievements came from the 60 meter hurdles as MU sent three of their men to the finals. Freshman Geordon Ferguson finished first with a time of 8.25, junior Jalen Walk-

er who was close behind with a time of 8.29 landing in second, and senior Chris Rutherford who crossed the line at 8.45 took sixth place.

Other highlights from the men included the men’s relay team placing fourth with a time of 3:25.91. Participating in the 4x400 relay for MU were Ferguson, sophomore Ben Boyd, freshman Eric Kahana and junior Bayaan Oluyadi.

Boyd once again finished first in the 300 meter dash with a time of 35.32, just .02 shy of tying his previously set record the week before.

As for throwers, it comes as no surprise that Jeffrey reigned supreme in Princeton’s arena. Jeffrey won both the shot put with a distance of 17.72 (58 feet 1 inch) meters as well as the weight throw at 17.73 meters (58 feet three inches). He became the only thrower in the whole nation to throw over 58 feet in both the shot put and weight throw so far this season.

Highlights for the women came from none other than renowned senior, Amanda Eller. Running the 5,000 meter race for the first time in her career, Eller placed fourth with a time of 17:55. With this time, Eller becomes one out of four women in MU’s vast history to run the indoor 5k in less than 18:00 minutes.

Head coach Joe Compagni admires Eller’s ability to not be confined to one event. “Her main events are really middle distance events so for her to be able to excel in events like that is a great example of her range and toughness.”

Another MU record was set as junior Laura Williams became the third fastest woman in MU’s history in the 300 meter dash as she posted a time of 40.88.

Consisting of freshman Morgan Spann, sophomore Jess Maguire, senior Daniele Toritto, and Williams, the women’s 4x400 relay team finished fifth notching a 4:03.24 time.

The women fared well in the throwing competitions as they took home three second place prizes. MU secured both second and fourth in the shot put as Junior Rachel Aloitta threw 13.99 meters (45 feet) and senior Sandra Jean-Romain threw 13.28 meters (43 feet six inches). MU also placed both second and sixth in the weight throw as junior Tilah Young tossed for a distance of 17.4 meters (57 feet) while Aloitta threw 16 meters (53 feet).

MU’s Track & Field will next compete in the Blue-White Invitational at the MAC on Saturday, January 5 at 10 am.



Do Tattoos and Jerseys Amount to More Than a BCS Title?

DAN GUNDERMAN
STAFF WRITER

Imagine the stress, fatigue and dedication that comes from going 12-0 in a college football season. Now picture the delight that comes to players and staff members when they find out they’ve been selected to compete in a BCS or invitational bowl game. All that hard work then has a purpose, a way to funnel months of hard work into a common goal.

Well as an Ohio State Buckeyes fan, there is nothing more upsetting than finding out your team, after a BCS Championship-contending season, will not be able to enjoy these perks.

It’s tough to see an undefeated season, led by a future Heisman contender and quarterback, Braxton Miller, go unrewarded. But, that is just another one of the effects from a very encroaching NCAA Rulebook that attempts to prohibit any sort of scenario where players would receive monetary gain from their stature at their school. So what exactly happened that created this one-year bowl game ban?

Beginning in 2009, eight players on the Ohio State roster began giving away team memorabilia, rings and jerseys in exchange for a total of \$14,000 in cash and tattoos. One of those involved was the star quarterback at the time, Terrelle Pryor, and the exchange became a clear violation of NCAA rules preventing athletes from trading on their fame and receiving extra benefits. Adding fuel to the fire, three players accepted \$200 from a booster, and they were also paid too much for summer jobs they held, supplied by the same booster.

After a tip over email from a local attorney, head coach Jim Tressel became aware of the entire situation, but failed to alert the higher ups. His inaction was a blatant violation of his contract, which forced him to alert an Ohio State committee and the athletic director upon learning about questionable acts done by players.

Instead of benching his players, he chose to let them play, and in 2010 the team advanced to the Sugar Bowl, where they defeated Arkansas. When the allegations against the program became public in March of 2011 by Yahoo! Sports, Tressel was initially suspended two games and fined, then the ante was upped to five. But as it became more public, Tressel was fired in May.

Trying to lessen the burden hammered down by the NCAA, the school imposed punishments on itself, vacating all wins from 2010 and divvying up the money earned from the Sugar Bowl. But this was not enough to the NCAA, which later imposed a “show cause” penalty to Tressel for five years, where it would be unbelievably hard for him to get hired as a coach at a school without that institution being liable for harsh penalties if something else were to happen. They also banned the team from bowl play in 2012 and reduced the number of scholarships the team could have until 2014-2015.

The first year following Tressel’s resignation, interim head coach Luke Fickell led the team to a 6-7 record. After the season, Urban

Meyer was brought in to coach the team, and bringing his championship-winning credentials, sought to bring the program back to an elite caliber. Sadly, he did and did it quick.

The team went undefeated this year (just the sixth time in school history), beating teams like Michigan State, Nebraska and Michigan. The AP had the team ranked at number four at season’s end, and depending on the hypothetical victory in the Big Ten Championship Game, Ohio State could have faced an undefeated Notre Dame in the BCS Championship.

So of all years to squander another chance at winning a BCS title, it just has to be the year where they are undefeated and poised to beat any team, but by regulation, cannot compete in bowl games.

The NCAA’s punishment is an awful way to tell fans like me: it’s funny because your team is good, and they can still be good, but (and it’s a big one), we’re going to sit back and watch as another team holds up your trophy and pops the champagne that could’ve been sprayed in your locker room, harsh. I, along with hundreds of thousands of other fans who watch the ‘Bucs play at the Horseshoe, don’t blame the NCAA entirely; it’s just a shame what the arrogant actions of one (player) can implicate for the future of many.

Though I agree with the NCAA’s ruling, it doesn’t rid Buckeye fans of the pit they feel in their stomachs from this season and all the potential glory and memories it could have brought the program. Bottom line, there is no excuse for receiving childish extra benefits while playing for a reputable (or any) NCAA program. Stick to the code, represent your college and act professionally like the thousands upon thousands of other upper echelon players before have done.

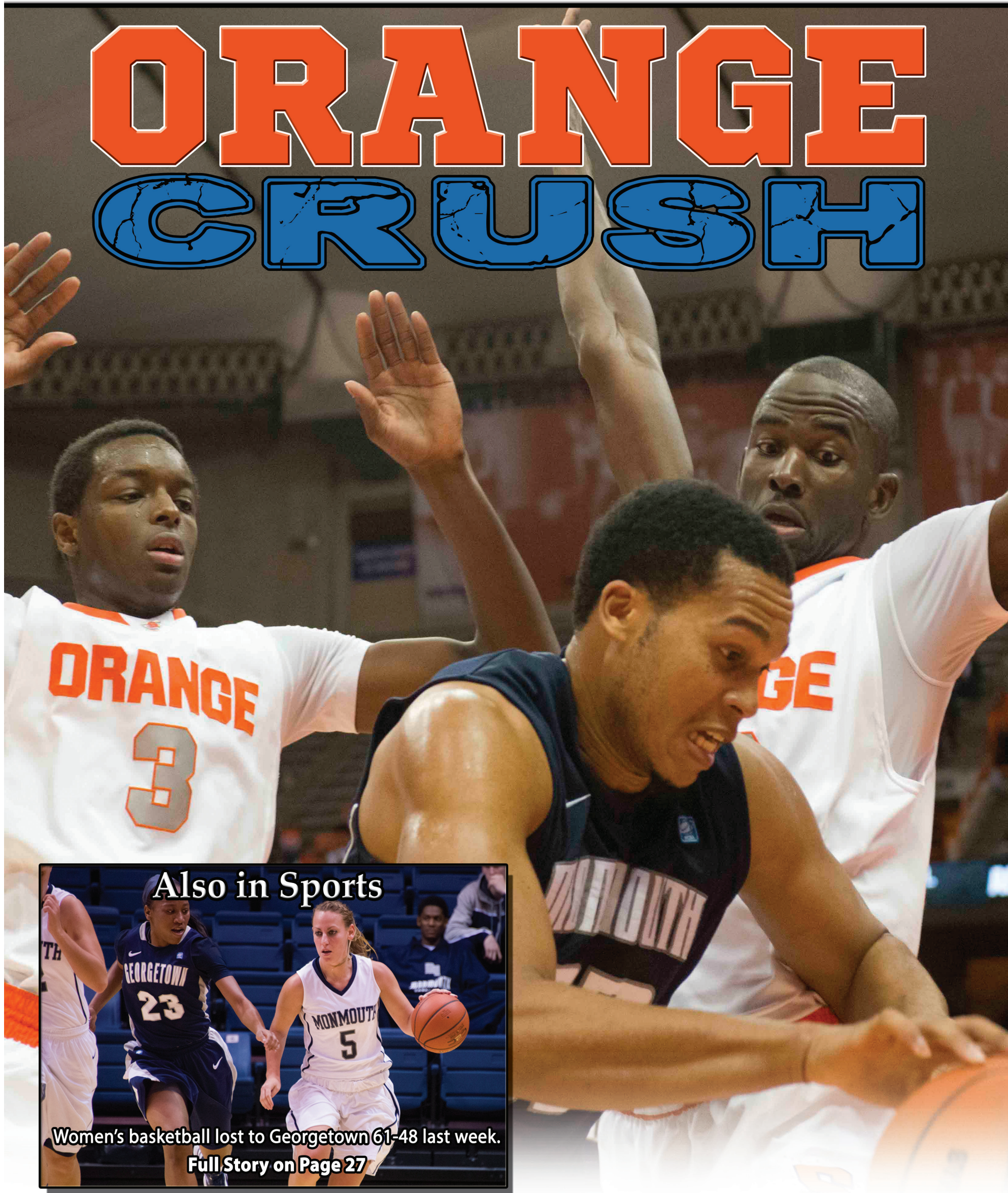
Oh wait, do these predecessors mean players like Cam Newton and Reggie Bush? Maybe the NCAA really just is this cesspool of arrogance and entitlement. Is it so bad out there that players feel obligated to secretly accept gifts? Well the NCAA imposed similar punishments for the USC football program, after finding out that Reggie Bush, the star running back of the program and possibly one of the best college athletes of the 21st century, accepted money which ridded himself of the amateur status that all college players have.

Even Cam Newton, the starting quarterback for the Carolina Panthers and former Auburn star, was involved in similar allegations. It was said that Newton’s father asked for hundreds of thousands of dollars in order for his son to be recruited to Mississippi State after junior college.

Basically, what this shows me, is that these players feel so victimized by the NCAA rules that they also feel obligated and entitled to accept money from boosters and agents elsewhere. But my message to these players remains the same, bitter one that I’ve held since hearing the first news of the scandals: is it so hard to be the professional you’re poised to become? Do these bribes really seem so important as to lessen the chances of your entire school’s position in the NCAA? A little common sense says no.



ORANGE CRUSH



The men's basketball team lost by 52 points against No. 4 Syracuse on Saturday night, 108-56. MU is now 5-5 this season after losing two games last week.

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